TOKYOPOP
Jim Henson's
RETURN TO
LABYRINTH
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COVER ART BY: KOUYU SHUREI
3

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Jim Henson's RETURN TO LABYRINTH™

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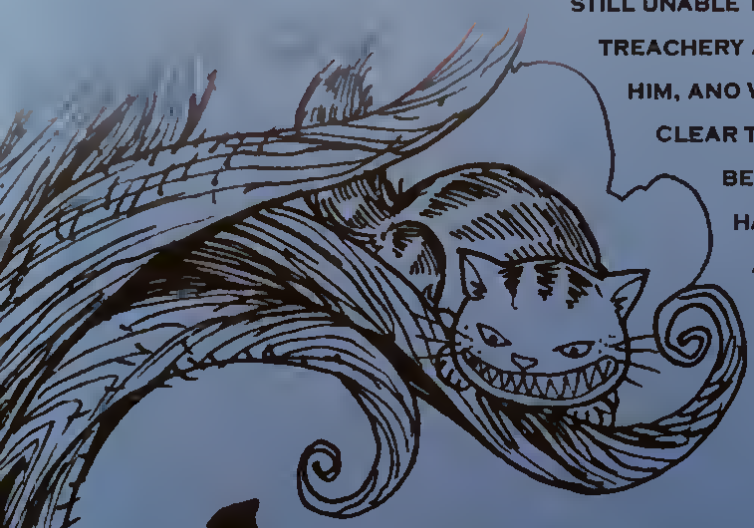
漫画革命

FOR TOBY, AS IT IS FOR ALL WHO ENTER THE LABYRINTH, THE WAY FORWARD IS SOMETIMES THE WAY BACK...

THROUGH DANGER UNTOLD AND HARDSHIPS UNNUMBERED, TOBY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE DAY OF HIS CORONATION. BUT HE IS STILL UNABLE TO CONTROL THE LABYRINTH, TREACHERY AND DECEIT SURROUND HIM, AND WORSE YET—IT'S BECOME CLEAR THAT SOME OF HIS SOON-TO-BE SUBJECTS ARE LESS THAN HAPPY ABOUT HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT. TOBY WILL HAVE TO KEEP HIS WITS ABOUT HIM AND HIS FRIENDS BY HIS SIDE IF HE'S GOING TO SURVIVE HIS FIRST DAY AS KING!



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FANTASY

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TEEN
AGE 13+

ISBN 978-1-59816-727-6
51299
9 781598 167276
www.TOKYOPOP.com

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Jim Henson's Return to Labyrinth Vol. 3

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ISBN: 978-1-59816-727-6

First TOKYOPOP printing: May 2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

Volume 3

Written by Jake T. Forbes
Illustrated by Chris Lie
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Based on the feature film "Labyrinth"
Directed by Jim Henson
Story by Dennis Lee and Jim Henson
Screenplay by Terry Jones

Original designs by Brian Froud

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HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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Previously...

When Toby Williams first visited the Labyrinth, he was just a babe, stolen by the cunning Goblin King. Thirteen years later, Toby returns to Jareth's Labyrinth, only to be declared the heir to the Goblin throne!

Adjusting to life in this backwards place isn't easy. Fortunately, Toby has the help of a few friends he met along the way. There's Skub, a cowardly goblin grunt-turned-chef. Hana, a fairy with a chip on her shoulders where once there were wings, and her partner in crime, the fuzzball Stank. And then there's Moppet, a seemingly human girl hidden behind a goblin mask with no memories of her past.

Young Toby isn't the only new arrival at the Labyrinth. The witch Mizumi of the Moraine Kingdom, her daughters and bodyguard in tow, came to the Labyrinth expecting to collect on a promise made by Jareth many years ago. So far Mizumi seems to have Toby's best interests at heart, but in this place, everything is possible and nothing is what it seems.

Meanwhile, Jareth has left the Labyrinth to meet with an old acquaintance -- Toby's sister Sarah!

PROLOGUE
When I was little, my sister would tell me the most wonderful stories...
Fairy Tales
"ONCE UPON A TIME..."

Sometimes she would read to me from old books filled with pictures of strange creatures...
"WHEN THE WIZARD AWOKE, THE SIX COLORED SUNS WERE SHINING DOWN UPON THE LAND OF THE MANGABOOS..."
...but mostly she would tell them from memory, often acting them out with props from her epic wardrobe.
"GIVE BACK THE CHILD THAT YOU HAVE STOLEN!"
I don't know where she learned these stories—I never saw them in any book or movie—but they were so vivid...Like stories from her own life.
...AND SO, AFTER A PARTICULARLY BAD DAY AT THE SCHOOL, THE PRINCESS LOOKED INTO HER MIRROR AND CALLED TO HER FRIENDS FOR AID...
And then, one day...
...the stories stopped.

I was too young to remember everything about that time...
...but Dad says it was like she became another person.
She started "getting serious" about school, she gave up on theater... She even started dating.
Mom said she was just a "late bloomer."
Personally, I missed the old version.
There were some perks to her sudden transformation.
She cleaned out her bedroom and let me have all of her toys-except for the girlie ones. Those Mom sold off in the garage sale.

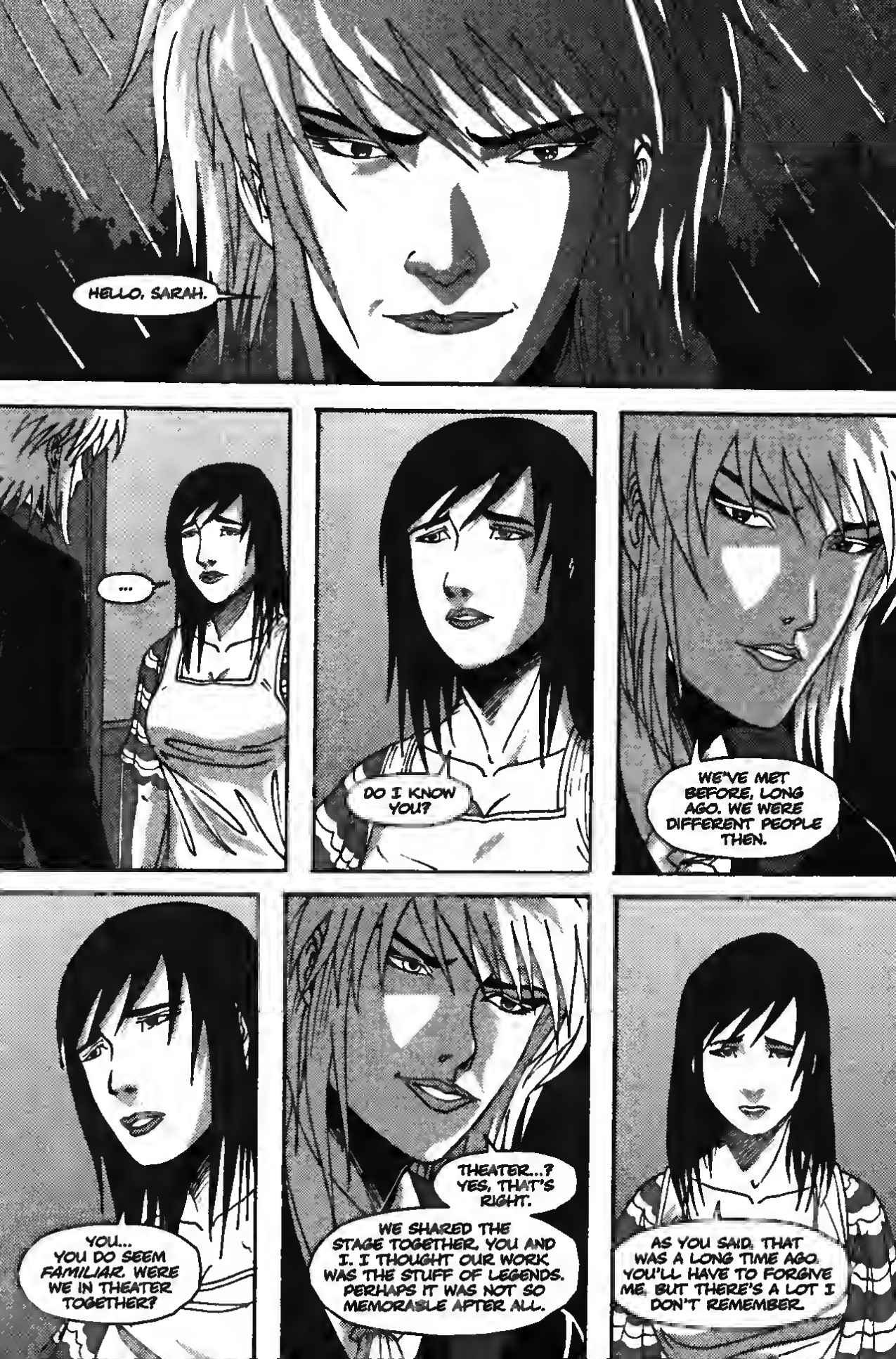
When I got older and thought I'd outgrown the old books and hand-me-down toys...
...and my sister went off to college, got a job and got engaged (it didn't last)...
...we started to drift apart.
So why does this girl before me remind me so much of...
SARAH?!

Chapter 1
JARETH'S LIES
WH...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

GRRRRR...
SPONGE-HEAD NEARLY KILLED US!
TAKE HER TO THE DUNGEON TO DRY OUT.
MOTHER?
YOUR MAJESTY, IF MY DAUGHTER HAS OFFENDED YOUR FRIENDS, SHE DID SO UNBEKNOWNST TO ME.
DO WITH HER AS YOU WISH.
"OFFENDED"?
SHE TRIED TO STRANGLE MOPPET!
MOPPET?

THESE MEMORIES... JARETH...
OH, TOBY... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
What's going on?
Who's that girl?
Did someone say it's raining faeries?
TOBY, MOPPET-- LET'S GO INSIDE. WE NEED TO TALK.
YOU'RE COMING TOO, WATER WITCH.
BUT YOUR HONOR, SURELY HIS HIGHNESS SHOULD BE PREPARING FOR TOMORROW'S CORONATION--
THAT CAN WAIT!

IT'S TIME THEY LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT JARETH'S LIES.
NIMBUS, FOLLOW THEM.


HELLO, SARAH.
...
DO I KNOW YOU?
WE'VE MET BEFORE, LONG AGO. WE WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE THEN.
YOU... YOU DO SEEM FAMILIAR. WERE WE IN THEATER TOGETHER?
THEATER...? YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WE SHARED THE STAGE TOGETHER, YOU AND I. I THOUGHT OUR WORK WAS THE STUFF OF LEGENDS. PERHAPS IT WAS NOT SO MEMORABLE AFTER ALL.
AS YOU SAID, THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME. BUT THERE'S A LOT I DON'T REMEMBER.

FORGIVE MY RUDENESS. MY NAME IS QUINN--JARETH QUINN...
...WEAVER OF DREAMS, TRAPPER OF HEARTS...
...APPEARING NIGHTLY AT THE ENIGMA LAIN THEATER.
OH GREAT... DID HE COME HERE TO HIT ON ME?
A SMALL THEATER NUTCASE--EVEN WORSE!
THAT'S VERY INTERESTING, MR. QUINN. BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Jareth...please
YOU'VE BEEN ON MY MIND FOR SOME TIME, SARAH, BUT IT WAS THE RAIN THAT FORCED ME TO ACT.
Oh no... He IS trying to hit on me!
MIND IF I COME IN?
UM...
I didn't say yes!

YOUNG MASTER TOBY, YOU ARE AWARE THAT THIS IS NOT YOUR FIRST TRIP TO THE GOBLIN KINGDOM--
THAT YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE AS AN INFANT AND SUBSEQUENTLY RESCUED BY YOUR SISTER.
YEAH...
But I still can't believe she did all that.
BUT WHAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD IS WHY YOU OF ALL CHILDREN WERE CHOSEN.
I THOUGHT IT WAS DESTINY--BECAUSE I WAS MEANT TO BE THE HEIR?
THAT MAY BE PART OF IT--I'M NOT ONE TO QUESTION DESTINY--BUT IT WAS ANOTHER REASON THAT JARETH CHOSE YOU...
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR SISTER.
SARAH? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

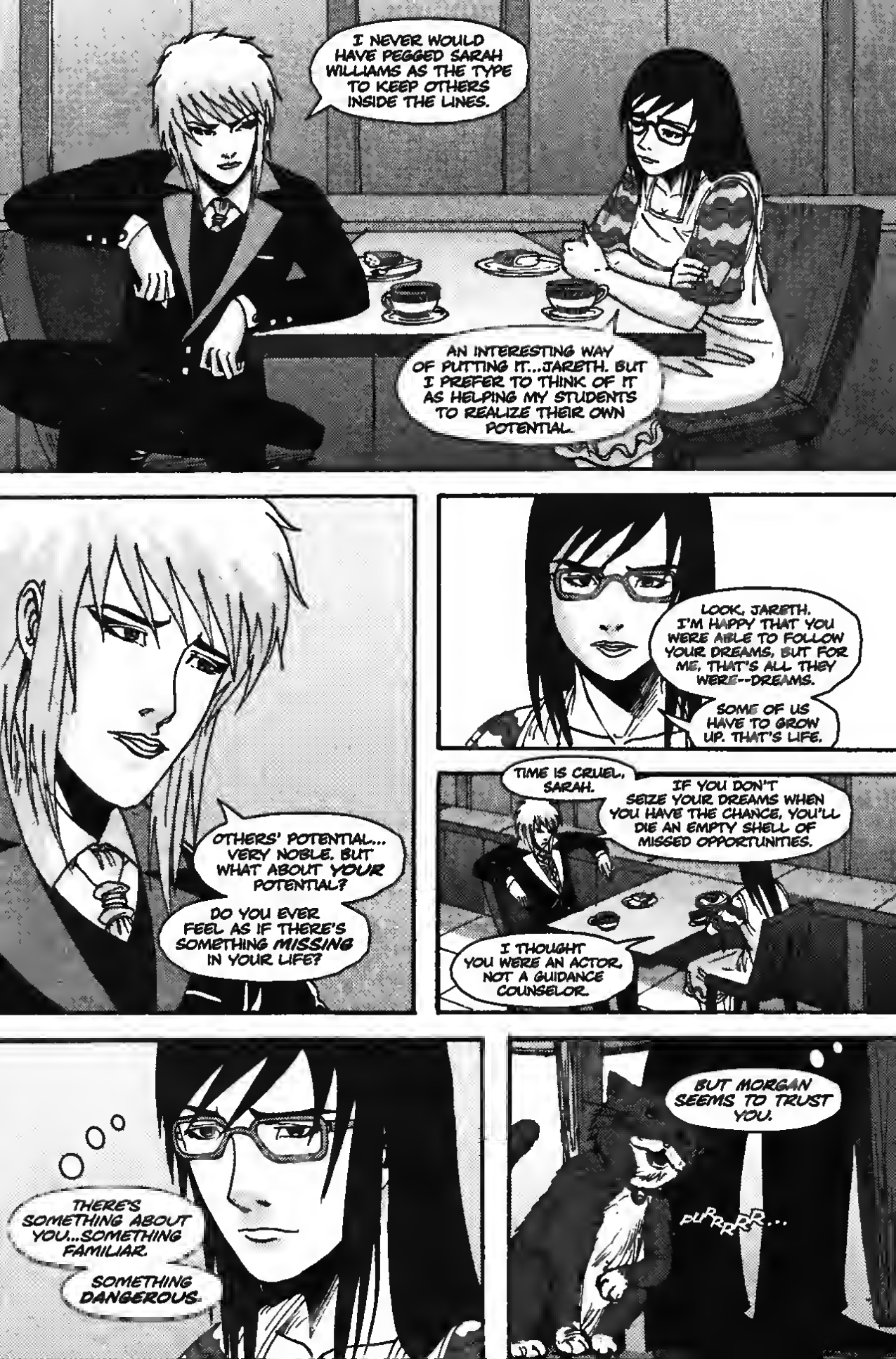
YOU WERE THE BAIT TO LURE HER HERE--TO TEST HER WILL AND BREAK IT. HE WANTED TO POSSESS HER..
IN HIS OWN STRANGE WAY, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF HE LOVED HER.
HOW ROMANTIC... WHY COULDN'T HE BREAK MY WILL?! ♥
HOW SADISTIC!
JARETH UNDERESTIMATED YOUR SISTER. NOT ONLY DID SHE SOLVE THE LABYRINTH--SHE GREW STRONGER IN THE PROCESS.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE JARETH'S WILL WAS THWARTED.
HE DISCOVERED THE LIMITS OF HIS POWER AND THAT NEARLY DESTROYED HIM...AND THE LABYRINTH.
ALL THAT BECAUSE OF A BRUISED EGO?
DID YOU LEARN NOTHING FROM MY LESSONS?

JARETH INVESTED EVERYTHING IN CREATING THE LABYRINTH TO PROTECT HIMSELF. HE NEVER INTENDED FOR ANYONE TO REACH ITS CENTER ON THEIR OWN--ONLY HIS WILL WOULD ALLOW THIS.
BY SOLVING THE LABYRINTH AND PROVING THAT HER WILL WAS EVERY BIT AS STRONG AS THE GOBLIN KING'S, JARETH WAS LEFT TOTALLY AND UTTERLY DEFENSELESS.
AND WITHOUT ITS CREATOR TO CONTROL IT, THE LABYRINTH HAD NO PURPOSE. THE SOUL OF THE LABYRINTH--THE PATHMAKER--WAS DYING.
THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING, BUT WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
SHE HAD A SPARK.
PATIENCE, GIRL, I'M GETTING TO THAT.

JARETH TRIED TO CONVINCE US--HIS SUBJECTS--THAT ALL WAS WELL, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE A FOREGOBLIN TO KNOW THAT HIS MAJESTY HAD LOST CONTROL OF THE LABYRINTH.
BUT THEN, AS IF BY MIRACLE, JARETH'S POWER WAS RESTORED... FOR A TIME.
IT ALL BEGAN WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE MORAINE KINGDOM. WHAT HE DID THERE AND WHAT HE BROUGHT BACK, I COULD ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT... UNTIL NOW.
YOU, MOPPET. HE BROUGHT BACK YOU.

CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? I WAS ABOUT TO POUR SOME TEA.
My throat's been bothering me tonight.
THAT WOULD BE DELIGHTFUL!
WHAT AM I THINKING? THIS GUY'S STORY IS SKETCHY AT BEST. IT'S LIKE HE FELL FROM ANOTHER PLANET. I SHOULD ASK HIM TO LEAVE!
He is cute though...
KINGDOM AS GREAT?
HMPH!
Karma
Get the glasses.
I BROUGHT YOU SOME PIE IN CASE YOU'RE HUNGRY. HOPE YOU LIKE PEACH.
Peach?
Y-YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.
?
You don't have to eat it..

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME, MR. QUINN. I'M NOT USED TO HOSTING STRANGE MEN LATE AT NIGHT.
JARETH, PLEASE.
I COULDN'T HAVE HOPED FOR A BETTER HOST AFTER THE JOURNEY I'VE MADE.
SO YOU'VE JUST ARRIVED, THEN? WHERE WERE YOU PERFORMING BEFORE?
HERE, THERE... IT'S NOT IMPORTANT. I GO WHERE MY *HEART* TAKES ME.
THIS THEATER YOU MENTIONED--*ENIGMA LAIN*--IS IT NEW? BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN IT LISTED.
THE THEATER ISN'T A PLACE--IT GOES WHERE I DO. THE SHOW IS ALWAYS CHANGING.
TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, SARAH. DO YOU STILL LONG FOR THE STAGE?
OH, NO. THOSE DAYS ARE LONG BEHIND ME. I'M A TEACHER NOW--ENGLISH LIT AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL.
APPARENTLY I'M THE ENGLISH TEACHER THE KIDS PRAY THEY WON'T GET.
Even the honors kids are afraid I'll throw off their GPA.
STILL, I LIKE TO THINK THAT AT LEAST SOME OF MY STUDENTS COME AWAY FROM MY CLASS WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION IN COMPOSITION.


I NEVER WOULD HAVE PEGGED SARAH WILLIAMS AS THE TYPE TO KEEP OTHERS INSIDE THE LINES.
AN INTERESTING WAY OF PUTTING IT...JARETH. BUT I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS HELPING MY STUDENTS TO REALIZE THEIR OWN POTENTIAL.
OTHERS' POTENTIAL... VERY NOBLE. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR POTENTIAL?
DO YOU EVER FEEL AS IF THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING IN YOUR LIFE?
LOOK, JARETH. I'M HAPPY THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, BUT FOR ME, THAT'S ALL THEY WERE--DREAMS.
SOME OF US HAVE TO GROW UP. THAT'S LIFE.
TIME IS CRUEL, SARAH.
IF YOU DON'T SEIZE YOUR DREAMS WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE, YOU'LL DIE AN EMPTY SHELL OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ACTOR, NOT A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU...SOMETHING FAMILIAR.
SOMETHING DANGEROUS.
BUT MORGAN SEEMS TO TRUST YOU.
PURRRR...

THE LAST TIME I WENT TO THE THEATER, IT WAS FOR A SCHOOL PERFORMANCE. THE MAIN CHARACTER WAS PLAYED BY...
OH NO! SURELY SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER HER BR--
...SOME KID...I DON'T REMEMBER WHO. I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE TRANSFERRED. IT WAS KIND OF A DISASTER.
Whew!
At least SOME of my magic still works...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME FOR DRAMA IN MY LIFE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE HOPING TO FIND HERE, BUT I'M QUITE SURE I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.
SHE HAS CHANGED, THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS...
...BUT THAT DEFIANT SPIRIT IS STILL THERE.
WELL, LOOK AT THE TIME! I REALLY SHOULD BE GOING.
YOU'RE A FASCINATING WOMAN, SARAH WILLIAMS. YOUR STUDENTS ARE VERY LUCKY.
IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU, JARETH...AGAIN.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR NEW SHOW. MAYBE I'LL STOP BY TO SEE IT.
I'M COUNTING ON IT.
IF ONLY YOU KNEW THE PAIN THAT AWAITS WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

YOU'RE A STRANGE MAN, MR. QUINN...
HUH?!
WHERE'D HE GO?

TH- THAT CAN'T BE TRUE! I WAS BORN HERE! IN THE LABYRINTH!
OH, BUT IT IS TRUE, MY DEAR. YOU ARE THE REASON JARETH CAME TO MY KINGDOM...
AND I MADE YOU.
YOU ARE AN ABLATION.
ABLATION...?
SKITTER
SKITTER
A LIVING ESSENCE. AN ASPECT SIPHONED OFF FROM ANOTHER BEING LIKE WATER EVAPORATING OFF A LAKE.
SKITTER
SKITTER
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE.

SKEEP! SKEEP!
EVERY LIVING THING IS MADE UP OF CONFLICTING ASPECTS. LOVE, HATE, FEAR, HOPE...
MY GREATEST POWER--A GIFT POSSESSED BY NONE OTHER--IS THE ABILITY TO EXTRACT SUCH ASPECTS...
...AND MANIFEST THEM AS NEW BEINGS. ABLATIONS.
SFOOOO

LIKE A CLONE?
A CLONE IMPLIES THAT THE TWO ARE EQUAL AND IDENTICAL. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.
THE ABLATION EPITOMIZES THE STOLEN ASPECT WHILE THE ORIGINAL LOSES THAT QUALITY.
IN THE CASE OF THIS FELLOW...
...AGRESSION.
YOU ARE LIKE THE THING IN THIS CUP--AN ABLATION--A HALF-BEING CREATED FROM SARAH.

WHAT ASPECT OF SARAH DID YOU REMOVE?
THE PART THAT JARETH FEARED THE MOST...
THE PART THAT CONNECTED HER WITH THIS PLACE...

HER DREAMS.
LOVE ME...
BOTH THE ORIGINAL SOURCE AND THE ABLATION ARE INCOMPLETE BEINGS--LACKING THE ABSOLUTE FREE WILL OF THE ORIGINAL.
JARETH BELIEVED THAT BY CONTROLLING SARAH'S DREAMS--THE PART OF HER THAT LED TO HIS OWN DEFEAT--HIS POWER WOULD BE RESTORED.
AND IT WORKED...
...FOR A TIME.

SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, MOPPET.
THE TOWER THAT YOU DISCOVERED WAS YOUR PRISON FOR MANY YEARS.
NO, NO! I SWEAR I HAD NO IDEA AT THE TIME! JARETH ALLOWED NO ONE TO ENTER THAT ROOM AND NO ONE SAW YOU ARRIVE.
IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT I STARTED PIECING TOGETHER THE TRUTH...
THIS WAY, GIRL. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T CLEAN OFF SOME OF THAT STENCH...
SOON AFTER I BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE RUBBISH FIELDS, JARETH PAID ME A VISIT...

I SEE YOU'VE BEEN QUITE BUSY, RIDDLERUM.
IT'S SPITTLEDRUM!
SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN OFFICE YOU'VE TRIPLED TAXES. DOUBLED THE LAWS IN THE GOBLIN CODE AND BUNGLED A PRE-EMPTIVE WAR AGAINST THE PILLOPUF KINGDOM.
EVERY GOBLIN IN THE LABYRINTH IS POSITIVELY MISERABLE...AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
Panjan Spittledrum
BLUSH
I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT, YOUR MAJESTY. YOUR OWN LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN A GREAT INSPIRATION.
SPUZZLE, SHUT UP.
"Spuzzle"? You're not even trying!!
JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND STOP TRYING SO HARD. YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK--
MASTER?
CLICK

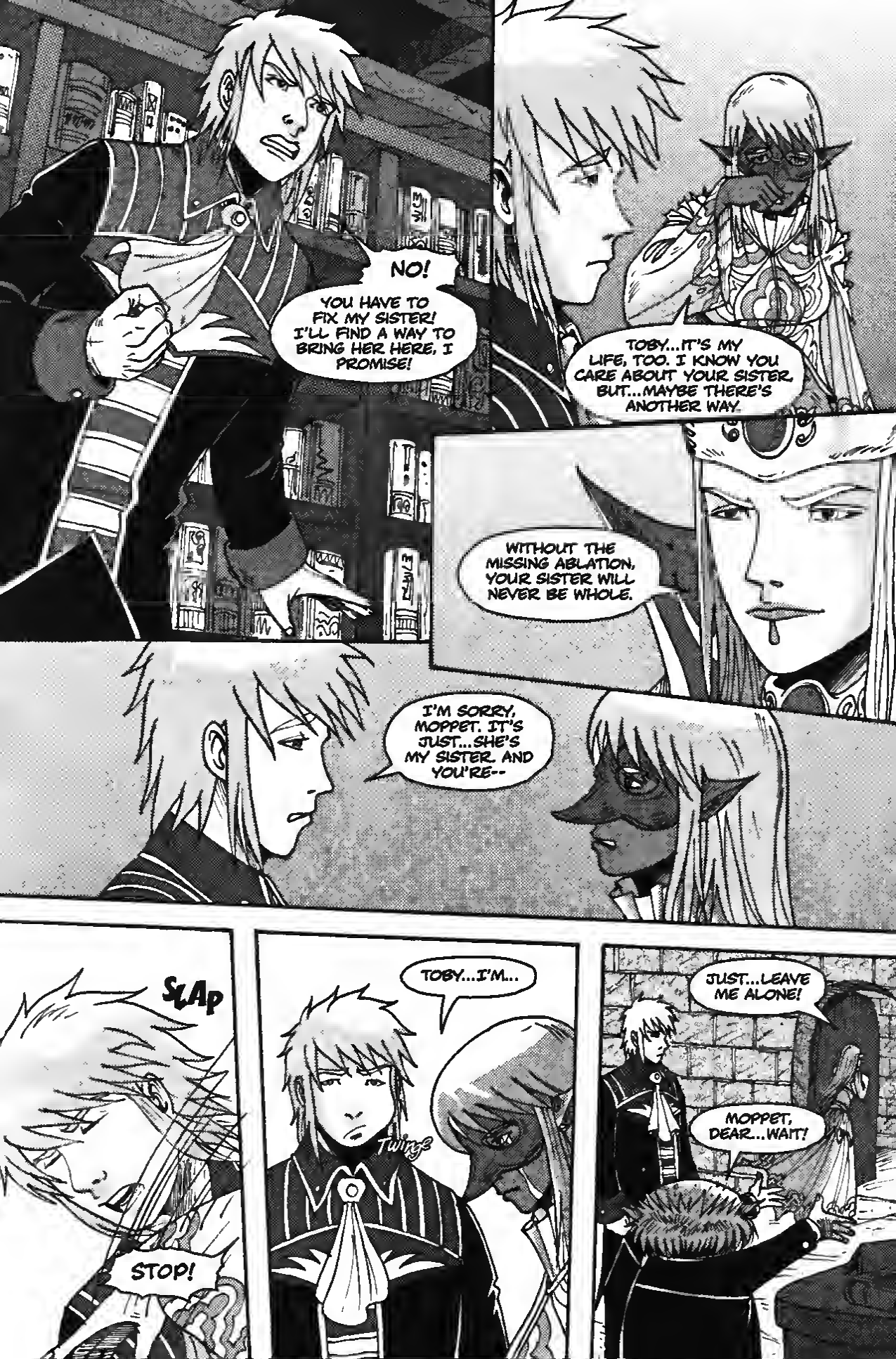
MASTER, I HEARD TALKING. CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?
JOLT
WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?! TELL ME!
TELL ME NOW, SPECKLECRUM, OR I SWEAR I'LL RIP YOU INTO SO MANY PIECES, THE CLEANERS WILL BE SCRAPING YOU UP FOR WEEKS!
Y-YOUR MAJESTY!
I CALL HER "MOPPET." IF SHE DISPLEASES YOU, I'LL SEND HER BACK AT ONCE!
SHE'S JUST A SERVING GIRL! I FOUND HER IN THE RUBBISH FIELDS.
GIRL, COME HERE.
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
GRAB
O-ONLY FROM PICTURES, YOUR MAJESTY. M-MASTER SPITTLEDRUM SPEAKS MOST HIGHLY OF YOU...
TREMBL
LEAVE.

LISTEN CLOSELY, MAYOR. THIS GIRL IS DANGEROUS.
SHE CAN STAY, BUT SHE IS NOT TO BE LEPT UNSUPERVISED. AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS SHE TO BE ALLOWED TO EXPLORE THE CASTLE.
SHOULD SHE ACT STRANGELY, MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT ME... OR ABOUT A LOCKED ROOM...
...GIVE HER THIS.
IF I FIND THAT EITHER OF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH MY WISHES, YOU'LL EACH FIND YOURSELVES IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE OUBLIETTES FASTER THAN YOU CAN SKIN A SCAB RAT
NOW YOU KNOW WHY I WAS SO NERVOUS ABOUT YOU GOING TO THE CASTLE...
MASTER...

STOP CALLING HIM THAT!
IF YOU'RE, LIKE, SORTA RELATED TO ME, THEN YOU CAN'T BE A SERVANT!
AND YOU! YOU STOLE PART OF MY SISTER! HOW COULD YOU?!
I TOLD YOU, YOUNG HIGHNESS--FOR LOVE. I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING JARETH ASKED OF ME.
OF COURSE, I COULD ALWAYS UNDO THE PROCESS.
!

IF THE ABLATION IS REABSORBED, THE STOLEN ASPECT WILL BE RESTORED...
...BUT THE MEMORIES AND PERSONALITY OF THE ABLATION WILL BE LOST....
...LIKE A DROP OF WATER FALLING BACK INTO A POND.
GASP!
IF YOU WANT ME TO RESTORE YOUR SISTER, TOBY, YOU MUST GAIN CONTROL OF THE LABYRINTH SO THAT YOU CAN SUMMON HER HERE TO ME.
SARAH... MOPPET... WHAT DO I DO?!

OH... AND THERE IS ONE OTHER THING YOU SHOULD KNOW.
IF ANY HARM SHOULD BEFALL THE ORIGINAL OR THE ABLATION...
VAAAM
EEP!
Aww... Not on my dress!
...THE OTHER DIES WITH IT.


NO!
YOU HAVE TO FIX MY SISTER! I'LL FIND A WAY TO BRING HER HERE, I PROMISE!
TOBY...IT'S MY LIFE, TOO. I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR SISTER, BUT...MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.
WITHOUT THE MISSING ABLATION, YOUR SISTER WILL NEVER BE WHOLE.
I'M SORRY, MOPPET. IT'S JUST...SHE'S MY SISTER. AND YOU'RE--
SLAP
STOP!
TOBY...I'M...
Twing3
JUST...LEAVE ME ALONE!
MOPPET, DEAR...WAIT!

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST THOUGHT IT OVER...YOUR HIGHNESS.
...SORRY...
THIS IS A TRAGEDY FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED, YOUR MAJESTY...
...BUT IT IS ALSO A LESSON.
BECAUSE JARETH COULD NOT CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS, HE DESTROYED LIVES.
TO SAVE YOUR SISTER, THE LABYRINTH AND ALL THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN IT, YOU MUST SUCCEED WHERE JARETH FAILED.

AT THE CORONATION, TOMORROW, WHEN THE SUN IS AT ITS ZENITH...
...YOU MUST SEIZE THE PATHMAKER--THE HEART OF THE LABYRINTH--AND BIND IT TO YOUR WILL...
...FOR IF YOU CANNOT, THE LABYRINTH, ITS INHABITANTS...
...AND EVERYONE YOU LOVE...
...WILL BE LOST FOREVER.

Chapter 2
SKUB'S TALE

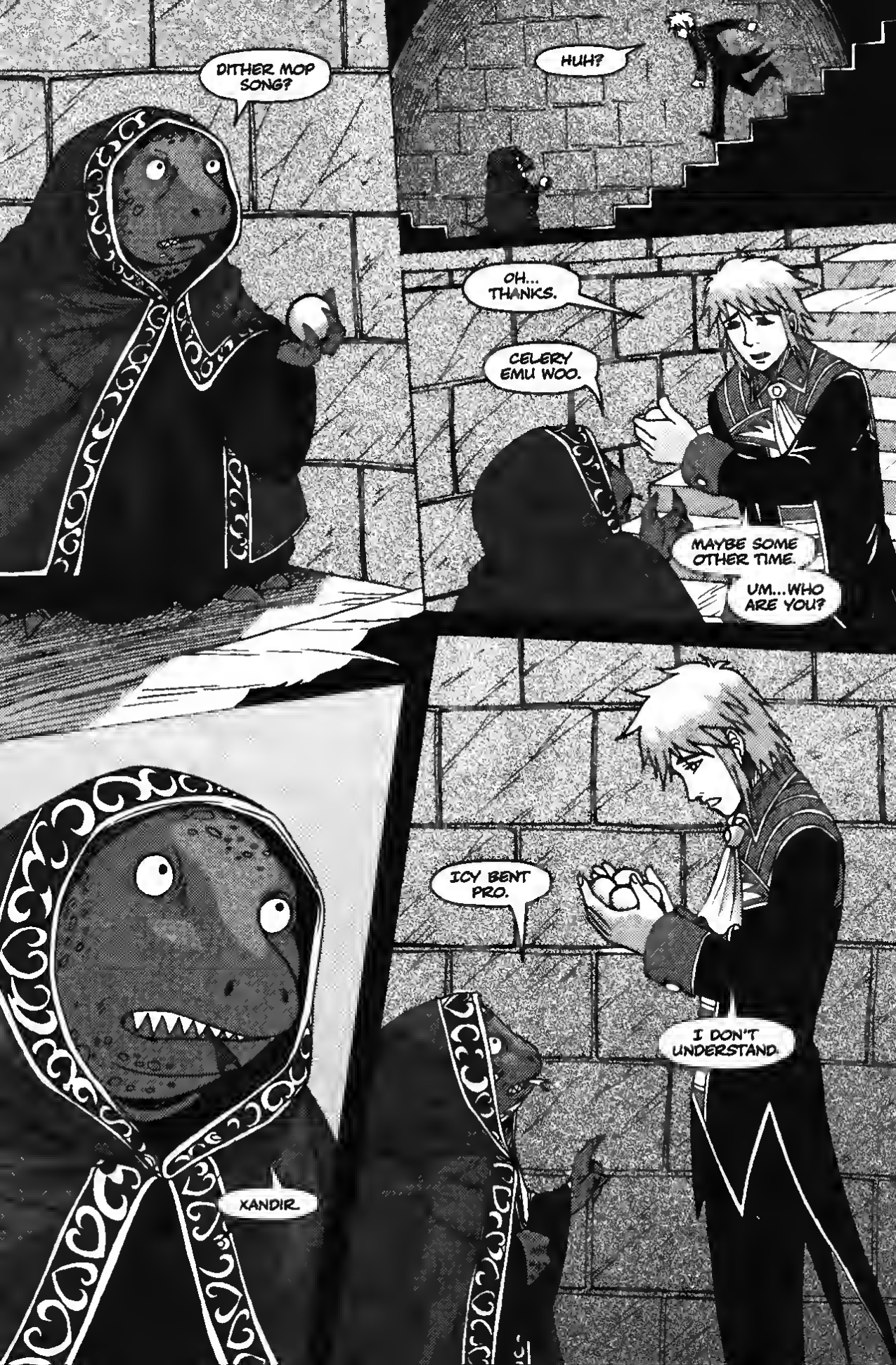
PATHMAKER... ABLATIONS... TOTAL ANNIHILATION...
THIS ISN'T THE JOB I SIGNED UP FOR!
UGH...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS BEFORE THE CORONATION AND I'M STILL NO CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING WHO OR WHAT THIS PATHMAKER IS.
AND NOW THIS BUSINESS WITH SARAH--IT'S TOO MUCH!
MIZUMI SAYS IT'S A MATTER OF WILL...
...BUT HOW CAN I WILL WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND?
THE TIMES WHEN I USED MAGIC BEFORE...
...IT WAS JUST INSTINCT. I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO AND I JUST DID IT. IT WASN'T WILLPOWER AT ALL.
AND NOW THEY EXPECT ME TO USE MY WILL TO CONTROL THE LABYRINTH? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, IT'S JUST A RANDOM MESS...

THAT'S IT!
I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS STUPID MAZE!
NNGH!!
I'VE JUST GOT TO WILL IT!
NOTHING HAPPENED.
WELL, IT WAS WORTH A SHOT.
SIGH...

I MIGHT AS WELL WILL THE MOON TO FALL OUT OF THE SKY.
HUH?
COOL!
WH

TONK
TINK
OOPS.
TINK
TINK
HA


DITHER MOP SONG?
HUH?
OH... THANKS.
CELERY EMU WOO.
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
UM...WHO ARE YOU?
ICY BENT PRO.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
XANDIR.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BIG FAIRY OUTING.
I'M SORRY. I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, BUT--
AIR BUGGY ION FIT! UNIPY TIBIA GROG!
A GIFT?
NOD NOD
TAG IF.

"WHEN HOPE SEEMS LOST TO DARKNESS, SEEK AN ALLY IN THE LIGHT."
WHEN HOPE SEEMS LOST TO DARKNESS, SEEK AN ALLY IN THE LIGHT.
HEY...
WINK
THANKS--
WHAT A STRANGE CREATURE...

I call your bluff.
Kah, kah, kah, kah!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
ACES AND EIGHTS--READ 'EM AND WEEP!
PUSSBUCKET! NOT AGAIN...
SHH! SOMEONE'S COMING!
Did he say "sacked"?
IF CANDLEWIC CATCHES ME AT CARDS, I'LL BE SACKED!
Not again!
Run away!

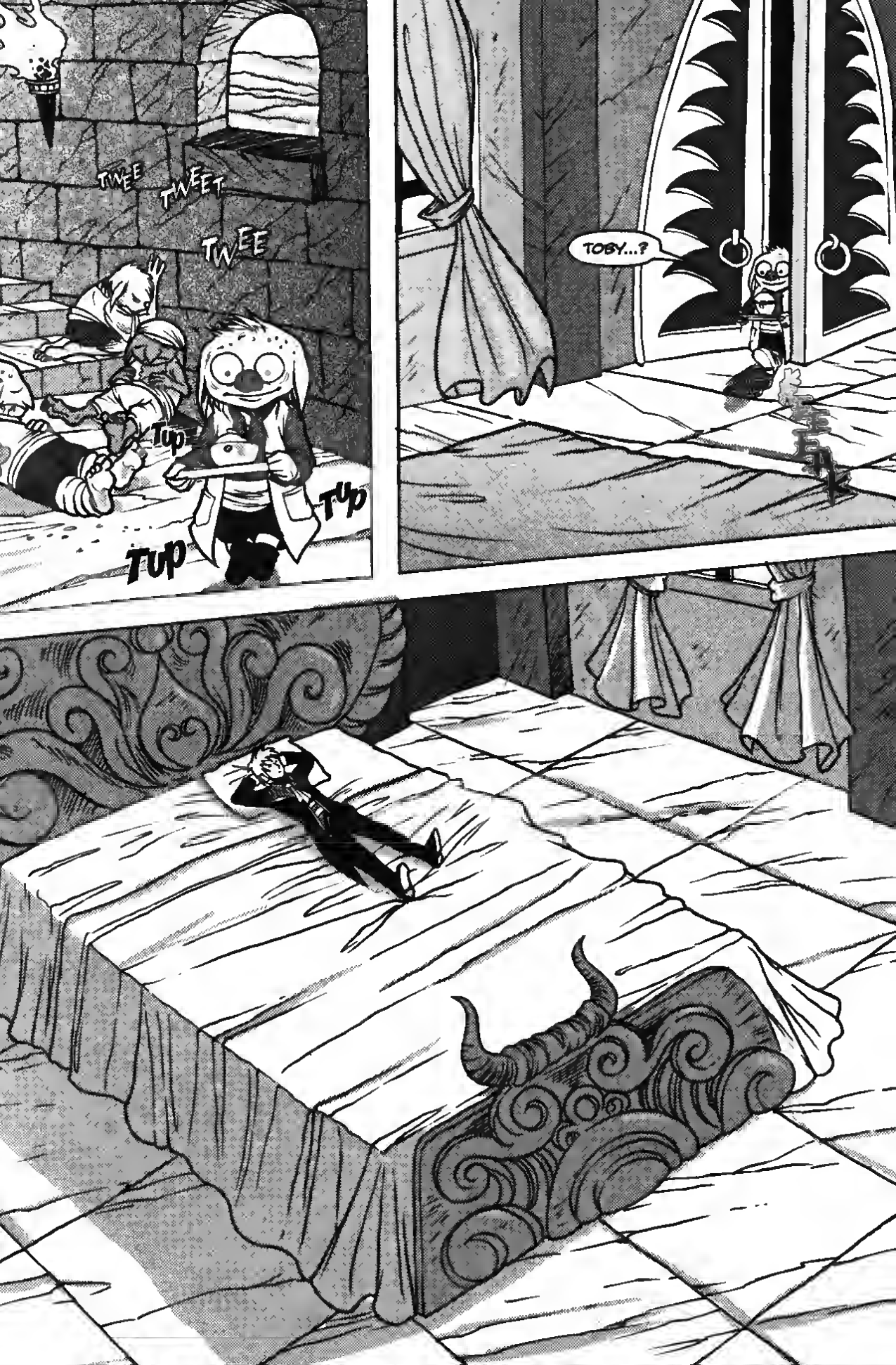
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?!
CANDLEWIC!
I NEED A MOMENT WITH THE PRISONER... ALONE.
Y-Y-YES, SIR! I-I-I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN...
GLANCE
HELLO, DRUMLIN, DEAR.
?!
SWIPP

MOTHER! IT'S ABOUT TIME. I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T...
SILENCE!
YOU GRAVELY DISAPPOINT ME, DRUMLIN.
MOTHER...?
FOR THIRTEEN YEARS I'VE WAITED FOR THIS CHANCE, AND YOU RISK EVERYTHING WITH YOUR RECKLESSNESS!
YOU SAID TO KEEP THEM OUT OF YOUR WAY...I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE PLEASED...
UNTIL I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR. I NEED THEM ALIVE! NOT TO MENTION...

...BY PUTTING YOURSELF AT RISK, YOU PUT *ME* AT RISK.
I-I'M SORRY, MOTHER. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...
OF THAT YOU CAN BE CERTAIN. I'M SENDING YOU *HOME*.
TO MORAINE?
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.

M-MOTHER...? WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?!
NO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...
AAAAAAGHHH!!
Gasp!

I HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT *HOPE* FEELS LIKE.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...


TWEE
TWEET
TWEE
TUP
TUP
TUP
TOBY...?

OH, HEY, SKUB.
SKUB THOUGHT TOBY COULD USE A SNACK. TOBY WASN'T SLEEPING, WAS HE?
OH, NO. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THINGS...
BEING THE KING MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT-- ESPECIALLY FOR ONE SO YOUNG.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I LEARNED...
...ABOUT MOPPET...
...AND MY SISTER.
IT'S NOT FAIR! JARETH FAILED HIS KINGDOM, HE FAILED MY SISTER...
...AND NOW HE EXPECTS ME TO FIX THE DISASTER HE MADE?
MAYBE JARETH THOUGHT TOBY COULD HANDLE IT.
MAYBE HE THOUGHT TOBY WAS STRONGER THAN HE.
HUH?

TOBY CAN'T GIVE UP. TOBY HAS TO HOPE THAT JARETH KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING. OTHERWISE...
SKUB...?
SKUB KNOWS HOW HARD IT CAN BE TO LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS.
Once upon a time, when Skub was very little, he lived with his mama and his papa and his three older brothers in a little cottage in the forest.

Papa was a famous goblin warrior--the bravest goblin in the Labyrinth!--and Mama was a great goblin chef who never poisoned anyone except on purpose.
We were as happy as clams in jam, yup.

* SEE RETURN TO LABYRINTH VOL. 2, PG. 85

Then one day...
BOYS, YER FATHER'S GETTIN' OLD AND OUR COFFERS ARE ALL BUT EMPTY. I CANNOT BE TAKIN' CARE OF YOU FEREVER.
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU GO OUT INTO THE LABYRINTH AND LEARN A TRADE. FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, WE'LL MEET AGAIN AT THIS PLACE.
WHOEVER IMPRESSES ME THE MOST WITH WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED WILL INHERIT THIS HOUSE--THE ONLY THING I HAVE TO GIVE YOU.
WHAT ABOUT SKUB?
THE RUNT? WHOEVER IMPRESSES ME THE LEAST CAN TAKE HIM.

And so Skub's brothers left home to find their destinies while Skub stayed home with Papa...
...and five years later, to the day, they returned.
SO YOU'VE ALL RETURNED AS AGREED.
NOW YOU MUST SHOW ME WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND WE'LL SEE WHO IMPRESSES ME MOST.
Bargo, youngest of the three, had traveled to the Shores of Ej to learn the ancient art of Fish Carving.
I'LL GO FIRST, FATHER.
WATCH ME, FATHER, AND YOU SHALL SEE THAT MY FISH CARVING PROWESS MAKES ME WORTHY OF YOUR INHERITANCE!
So Bargo pulled out a carp and a knife and whittled away until, in no time flat—
SHF
SHF
SHF
...he had fashioned a scaly pair of overalls.
FOR YOU!

H-HO! VERY NICE! SURELY NONE OF YOUR BROTHERS CAN DO BETTER...
But no sooner had Papa pulled on his new fishy pants...
FEAR NOT, FATHER, FOR DURING MY FIVE YEARS AWAY I STUDIED TOAD WARBLING WITH THE FAMED HERMIT OF KROKE.
I SHALL DRIVE AWAY THE WHIGEONS WITH SONG!
...than a flock of whigeons flew down to eat them.
MEOK!
ARGH! ME NEW PANTS!
MEOK!
MEOK!
KRARDOONK
And indeed, Skub never saw one warble toads so skillfully, before or since.

GREPH, MY SON, YOU HAVE SAVED US ALL FROM THEM MISERABLE WHIGEONS.
WHATMORE, YOU HAVE OUTDONE BARGO WITH YOUR DISPLAY AS SURELY AS MY SWORD IS DULL!
NOW, NOBLE KRAGLYST, MY ELDEST AND WISEST--WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THESE FIVE YEARS PAST?
And then, with all eyes locked on my big brother...
FRRRBBBTTTT
AH HAR HAR HAR! SUCH TIMING! YOU TRULY HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF COMEDY!
Ha ha ha!
FUNH!
ALL OF YOU HAVE EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS. I CANNOT DECIDE WHO IS THE MORE WORTHY SON.

But then, as if on cue, fate intervened.
A DRAGON!
THERE'S A DRAGON IN THE LABYRINTH! IT'S ATTACKING THE CASTLE!
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE, LADS! USE YOUR NEWFOUND SKILLS AND TAKE CARE OF THIS DRAGON AND YOU'LL BRING FORTUNE AND GLORY TO US ALL!
And so off they went to confront the dragon.
UH-HUH. THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
TRADE SKILLS AREN'T MUCH USE AGAINST A DRAGON. THEY DIED GRISLY DEATHS. SO GRISLY...
...it broke Papa's heart.

After that, Papa decided that Skub should follow in his footsteps.
BUT, PAPA, SKUB WANTS TO BE A CHEF LIKE MAMA...
NEVER! LOOK WHERE THEM FANCY CITY SKILLS GOT YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR BROTHERS!
THE ONLY PROFESSION FIT FOR A GOBLIN IS SOLDIERY!
So that's how Skub ended up a goblin grunt.
IT IS NOT EASY BEING A SOLDIER IN THE GOBLIN ARMY--THERE IS ALWAYS A WAR GOING ON SOMEWHERE IN THE LABYRINTH, SO LIFE EXPECTANCIES ARE VERY SHORT.
SKUB ONLY SURVIVED BECAUSE HE WAS GOOD AT SNEAKING AND HIDING.

But Skub didn't want to let his papa down, so after every battle I'd write him letters about my "victories."
Skub wrote many lies... but he only meant well.
THAT'S MY BOY! YOU'VE DONE YOUR FATHER PROUD, SKUB.
Then one day, fate stuck its nose in again...
A DRAGON!
THE DRAGON'S RETURNED! THE GOBLIN CITY IS UNDER ATTACK!
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE, SKUB! YOU CAN AVENGE YOUR BROTHERS AND RESTORE OUR FAMILY'S HONOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!
BUT, PAPA...
Skub could not tell him the truth-- that he could not even hold a poking stick, let alone slay a dragon.
GO GET 'IM, SKUB. YOUR FATHER BELIEVES IN YOU!
So against better judgments, Skub volunteered to join the great dragon hunt.

As Skub followed the other soldiers into the cave that day, every step was filled with trembles-- every thought was of how to run away.
And run away I would have, had not someone spotted me first.
GOING SOMEWHERE, COWARD?
I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND THE BARRACKS, RUNT. FUNNY HOW I NEVER SEE YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU EARN YOUR KEEP.
It did not matter what they said, Skub could not go to face the dragon. He was too scared...
WHAT DO YOU SAY, BOYS? SHOULD WE SEND THE RUNT IN FIRST TO CLEAR OUT THE DRAGON'S LUNGS?
Ha
ha
ha
ha!
GET OUT OF HERE, COWARD. YOU'LL JUST GET IN OUR WAY.
Ha ha ha ha!
WHAK

Candlewic and the others had their victory, but made no secret of Skub's cowardice. Papa knew the truth at last--that Skub was not the hero Papa thought he was.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, SKUB. YOUR MOTHER, YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR OLD MAN--YOU'VE FAILED US ALL.
Papa's heart was broken. He never spoke to Skub again.
SKUB WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH. SKUB COULDN'T LIVE UP TO PAPA'S EXPECTATIONS.
POOR SKUB...
BUT SKUB HAS SEEN TOBY BE BRAVE! SKUB BELIEVES IN YOU. YOU WON'T LET US DOWN.
ALL RIGHT, SKUB. I PROMISE--I WON'T GIVE UP. I'LL FIND A WAY TO FIX JARETH'S MESS!

Chapter 3
THE PATHMAKER

The Day of the Coronation...
WON'T YOU AT LEAST GO TO THE CEREMONY?
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
NO WAY!
I KNOW HE CAN BE A JERK SOMETIMES, BUT HE DID SAVE OUR LIVES AT THE TOWER. REMEMBER?
YOU WEREN'T THERE, HANA. YOU DIDN'T SEE THE LOOK IN HIS EYE WHEN HE FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS SISTER.
IT'S LIKE...
I WASN'T A PERSON TO HIM ANYMORE.

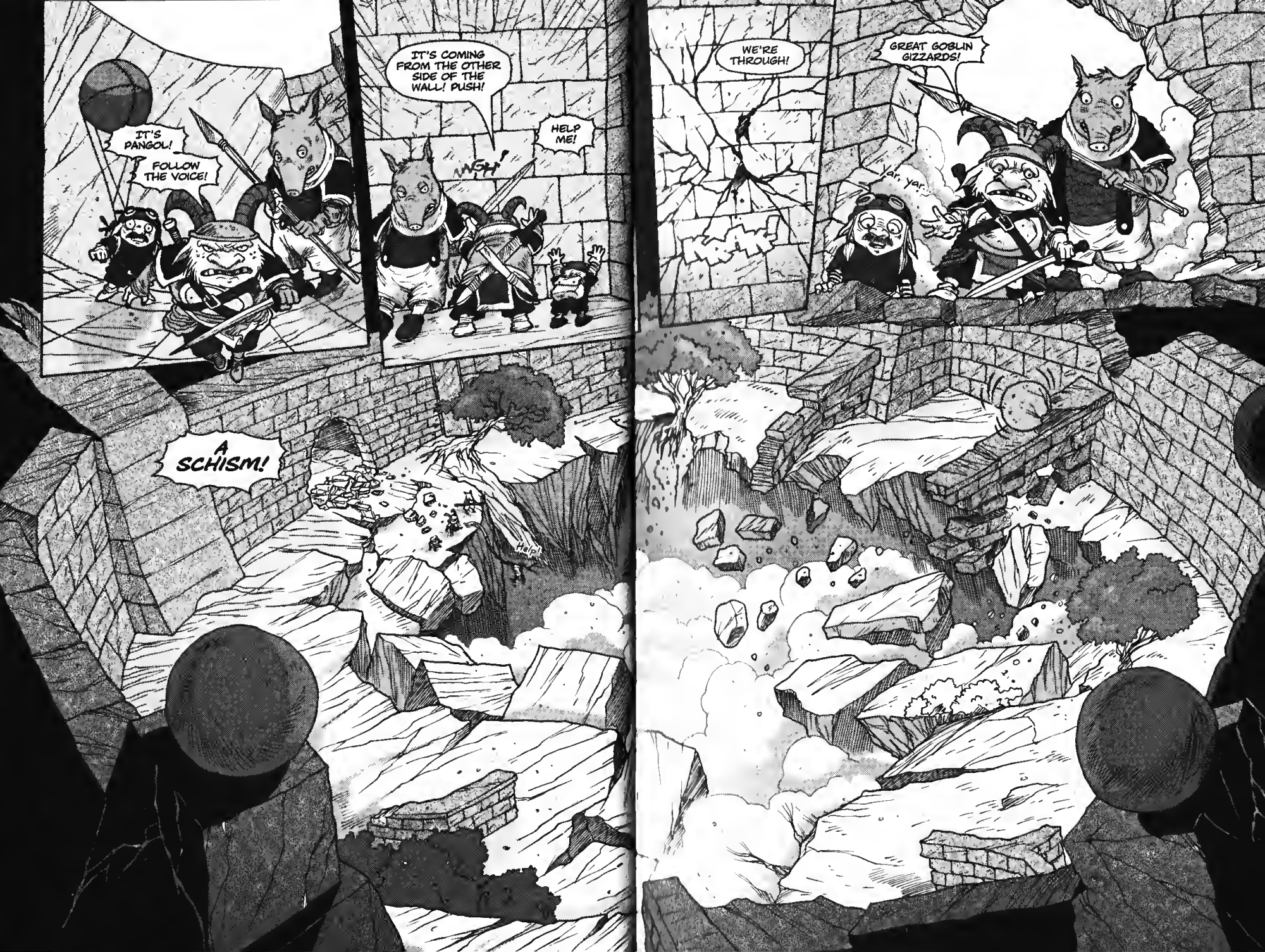
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW...
I CAN'T STAY HERE. I'M NOT READY TO FACE TOBY AGAIN... NOT YET.
IF WHAT MIZUMI SAID IS TRUE, I'M AS GOOD AS GONE ONCE TOBY GETS HIS ACT TOGETHER.
YOU MEAN *IF* HE GETS IT TOGETHER. UNLESS HE WENT THROUGH A MAGIC GROWTH SPURT LAST NIGHT, HE WON'T BE BINDING THE LABYRINTH ANYTIME SOON.
DON'T BELIEVE THAT! PLEASE DON'T BELIEVE THAT!
AS MUCH AS IT SCARES ME, I DO WANT TOBY TO SUCCEED. WE NEED HIM TO.
WITHOUT A WILL TO BIND IT, THE LABYRINTH WILL UNRAVEL.
IT COULD MEAN THE END FOR *ALL* OF US.

SURE YOU WON'T RECONSIDER?
WE COULD BRING ROTTEN MARSHMELONS TO THROW IF THINGS GET DULL.
NO, YOU GO AHEAD. PLEASE. AND HANA...
I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR WINGS.
...?

I'M SORRY, MASTER.
YOU COULDN'T DO IT...
CLICK
"SHOULD SHE ACT STRANGELY, MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT ME, OR ABOUT A LOCKED ROOM...
...GIVE HER THIS."
...SO I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
GOOD LUCK, TOBY. I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE...

HE'S LATE!
PANGOL SHOULD HAVE REPORTED BACK AN HOUR AGO!
WHAT DO WE DO, CAPTAIN?
WE FIND HIM.
WITH PRINCE TOBY'S CORONATION ABOUT TO BEGIN, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT WE KEEP SECURITY TIGHT.
IF PANGOL RAN INTO TROUBLE, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND IT.
ZAH!
FOLLOW ME, MEN! ONWARDS!
THAT'S THE WALL, SIR.
PERHAPS I SHOULD LEAD?
Yar, yar.
Tut Tut

Several hours later...
Huff!-Huff!
WE MUST HAVE COVERED HALF THE LABYRINTH BY NOW, AND STILL NO SIGN OF PANGOL.
ACTUALLY, SIR..
...I THINK WE'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES.
Yar, yar.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAVE A KEYSTONE!
EVERY GOBLIN WITH THE AUTHORITY TO TRAVEL THE LABYRINTH IS ASSIGNED A KEYSTONE--IT OPENS THE DOORS AND KEEPS THE PATHS STRAIGHT.
IT MAKES PATROLLING THE LABYRINTH POSSIBLE!
AS LONG AS WE CARRY THIS, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET LOST.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, SIR..
...LOST, WE ARE.
HELP!!


IT'S PANGOL!
FOLLOW THE VOICE!
IT'S COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL! PUSH!
HELP ME!
NNGH!
A SCHISM!
Help!
WE'RE THROUGH!
GREAT GOBLIN GIZZARDS!
Yar, yar.
KRAK!

A SCHISM? THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE KEYSTONE DOESN'T WORK.
BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A SCHISM IN THE LABYRINTH IN OVER TWELVE YEARS!
A LITTLE HELP, PLEASE!
AIRMAN POOD! GET A ROPE OVER THERE!
Aye.. aye, yar, yar!
Tut Tut
HEAVE!
NNGH!

Oof!
REPORTING FOR DUTY, CAP'N!
PANGOL, TAMANDU, YOU'LL STAY HERE AND HELP ME DEAL WITH THE SCHISM.
AS LONG AS IT'S AN ISOLATED OCCURRENCE, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT SAID, WE CAN'T JUST BRUSH THIS INCIDENT UNDER THE RUG. AIRMAN POOD, FLY BACK TO THE CASTLE AND UPDATE COMMANDER CANDLEWIC.
IF THERE'S ANY GOBLIN WHO KNOWS HOW BEST TO PROTECT THE LABYRINTH, IT'S HIM.
Tut Tut....
IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN.

A STORM, MAYBE. SHOULD WE POSTPONE THE CEREMONY?
NO, IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
THE CORONATION MUST TAKE PLACE TODAY. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT A KING ANY LONGER.
A little mud will just make things more festive!
BESIDES, THE AUDIENCE IS ALREADY GATHERING.
WHERE'S OUR KING-TO-BE?

WHERE'S MY CAPE?!
TUG
ROOO?
UM...THANKS, BUT MAYBE I'LL SKIP THE CAPE THIS TIME.
DRIP
DRIP
WELL, MAYBE IT'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL. DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT, STANK?
ROO ROO-AR GAROO.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

GOTTA RUN! SEE YOU AT THE CEREMONY! RIGHT, BOY?
Nod nod
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LATE FOR MY OWN CORONATION!
DASH
HUH?
I WOULDN'T GO OUT THERE IF I WERE YOU.
MOULIN?!

TOBY, SO-CALLED HEIR, YOU MUST NOT DON THE GOBLIN CROWN.
AND YOU ARE?! I HEARD HOW YOUR LITTLE PET THERE HELPED DRUMLIN ATTACK MY FRIENDS.
KEEP IT UP, MOULIN, AND YOU'LL END UP SHARING YOUR SISTER'S FATE.
AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE HERE TO STOP ME?
NO...TO WARN YOU.
MY MOTHER IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
YOU'RE MORE RIGHT THAN YOU KNOW...

TOBY, PLEASE! THERE'S NO TIME! YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
I HAVE MY REASONS.
MY MOTHER MADE SOME KIND OF WAGER WITH JARETH--A WAGER THAT HE LOST.
WHEN THE TIME COMES SHE'LL CLAIM THE LABYRINTH FOR HERSELF--AND IF YOU ACCEPT THAT CROWN SHE'LL CLAIM YOU TOO.
THESE GOBLINS NEED ME. MY FRIENDS NEED ME. WITH JARETH GONE, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A CHANCE OF CONTROLLING THE LABYRINTH.
NOT THAT I'VE EXACTLY MASTERED THE WHOLE CONTROL THING YET...
NOT TO MENTION, I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP SARAH.
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE--NOW!
I CAN'T DO THAT.
EVEN IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO JUST RUN AWAY.
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, BOY. THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE EVEN HERE IS BECAUSE JARETH IS A COWARD. YOU'RE NOT FIT TO RULE.
He thought he could save face by skipping town before Mother came to collect.

LIAR...COWARD... JARETH HAS CERTAINLY MADE HIS SHARE OF ENEMIES.
BUT HE'S ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THIS PLACE.
FOR ALL ITS QUIRKS...ITS TRAPS...ITS NONSENSICAL RULES... I'VE REALLY GROWN TO LIKE THIS PLACE.
SKUB
IF THE LABYRINTH IS TRULY JARETH'S HEART, CAN HE BE ALL BAD?
I'M SORRY, MOULIN. I HAVE TO BELIEVE JARETH KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING.
SHUV
I'M GOING OUT THERE.
THEN YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL THAN JARETH EVER WAS.
MAKING NEW FRIENDS, MOULIN?

ESKER!
Gasp!
SHE KNOWS!
Glare
GO BACK TO YOUR FREEZER, OR I'LL TELL MOTHER THAT YOU'VE BEEN STALKING ME AGAIN.
AH, BUT YOUR MOTHER WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
SEEMS SHE DOESN'T TRUST YOU.
I can't imagine why not
CLICK
NOW, BE A GOOD GIRL AND GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
DON'T YOU KNOW, ESKER?

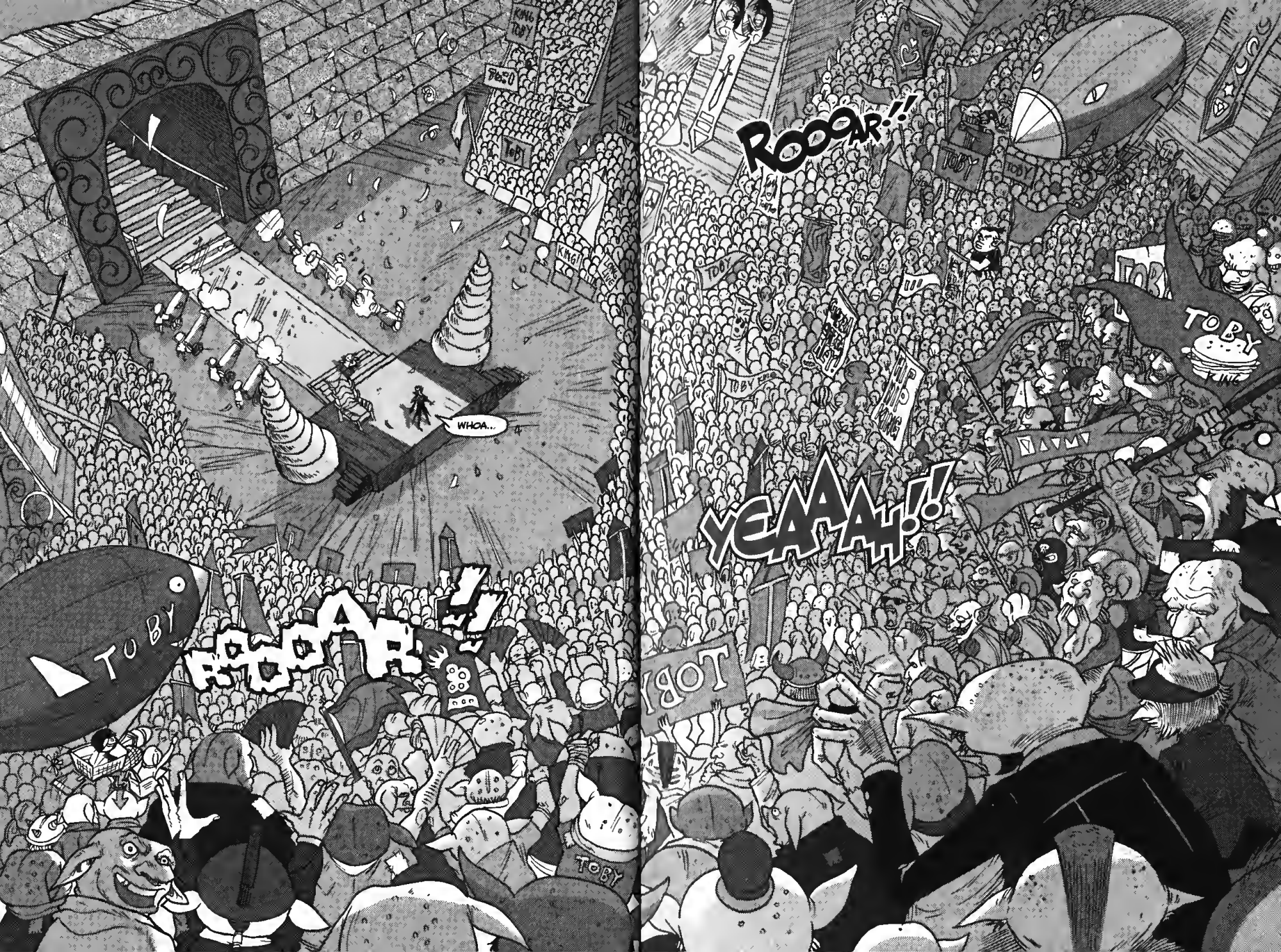
GOOD GIRLS DON'T WEAR BLACK!
SMASH!
AAAGH!
SWIRR
WHOOSH!
HUFF!
SORRY TO HAVE TO GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER, OLD-TIMER, BUT I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS.

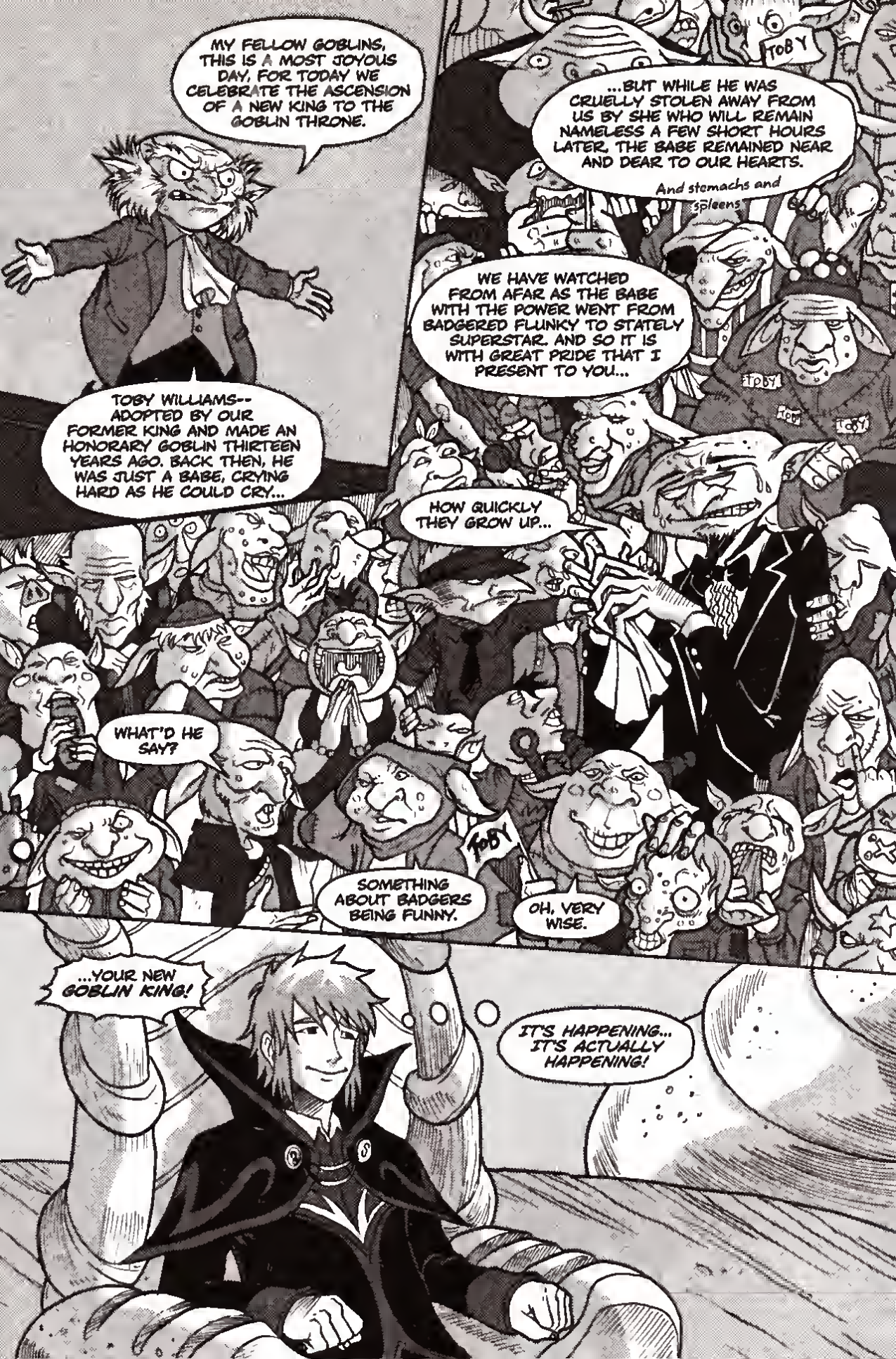
I'M NOT GOING BACK! I WON'T LET HER HAVE ME!
DASH
KLISH
KLISH
DOOM

I'M THROUGH ASKING NICELY.
KRIK
YOU WON'T HURT ME...YOU DARE NOT HURT ME!
KRIK
I DON'T NEED TO HURT YOU. I JUST NEED TO KEEP YOU ON ICE UNTIL LADY MIZUMI CAN TEND TO YOU HERSELF.
FOOM
BAH!
NIMBUS, GO! FIND HELP!

SH
VO
CHUNK
YOU MONSTER!
I TRUST THERE WILL BE NO MORE TROUBLE.

OH DEAR, OH DEAR... THE SUN IS ALMOST AT ZENITH. THE AUDIENCE IS GETTING DOWNRIGHT HOMICIDAL. AND TO TOP IT OFF, WE'VE GOT SCHISMS FORMING IN THE LABYRINTH!
WHAT KEPT YOU? I WAS WORRIED WARTLESS!
COME THIS WAY. I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE WALK.
Ow...
GRAB
SO, ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS CORONATION THING OR WHAT?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
SO, YOU'LL TAKE YOUR SEAT IN THE THRONE OF ASCENSION WHERE YOU WILL PLAY WITNESS TO THE PROCESSION OF FLAGS. AFTER THAT IS THE DISPLAYING OF THE ROYAL JEWELS...
...THEN COMES THE SALUTE OF A THOUSAND HORNS--
I'M SORRY. I PROMISE TO--
HEY! I THOUGHT JARETH WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY GOBLIN KING!
HOW CAN THIS CEREMONY BE A TRADITION?!
CAN WE JUST SKIP TO THE IMPORTANT PART?
YOUR HIGHNESS! THE CORONATION CEREMONY IS A SACRED TRADITION! IT IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!
SORRY! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! WE'RE HERE!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT THE PATHMAKER? WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!
THMP!


KING TOBY
TOBY
KING!
LONG LIVE
WHOA...
TOBY
ROOOAR!!
TOBY
ROOOAR!!
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY
YEAAAH!!
TOBY
TOBY
TOBY


MY FELLOW GOBLINS, THIS IS A MOST JOYOUS DAY, FOR TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION OF A NEW KING TO THE GOBLIN THRONE.
TOBY WILLIAMS-- ADOPTED BY OUR FORMER KING AND MADE AN HONORARY GOBLIN THIRTEEN YEARS AGO. BACK THEN, HE WAS JUST A BABE, CRYING HARD AS HE COULD CRY...
...BUT WHILE HE WAS CRUELLY STOLEN AWAY FROM US BY SHE WHO WILL REMAIN NAMELESS A FEW SHORT HOURS LATER, THE BABE REMAINED NEAR AND DEAR TO OUR HEARTS.
And stomachs and spleens
WE HAVE WATCHED FROM AFAR AS THE BABE WITH THE POWER WENT FROM BADGERED FLUNKY TO STATELY SUPERSTAR. AND SO IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I PRESENT TO YOU...
HOW QUICKLY THEY GROW UP...
WHAT'D HE SAY?
SOMETHING ABOUT BADGERS BEING FUNNY.
OH, VERY WISE.
...YOUR NEW GOBLIN KING!
IT'S HAPPENING... IT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING!

OF COURSE, THAT ASSUMES THE HEIR SURVIVES THE TRIAL OF ASCENSION. BUT FIRST...THE PARADE OF FLAGS!
FTOOH!
FTOOH!
SURVIVE? WAIT-- WHAT?!
HERE THEY COME! FLAGS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE LABYRINTH!
Hey! What's this "trial business"?!
OF COURSE, WITH SO MANY TWISTS AND TURNS IN THE LABYRINTH, THAT MAKES OVER 47,000 CORNERS!
Ooooh!
Zzz...
SNORE

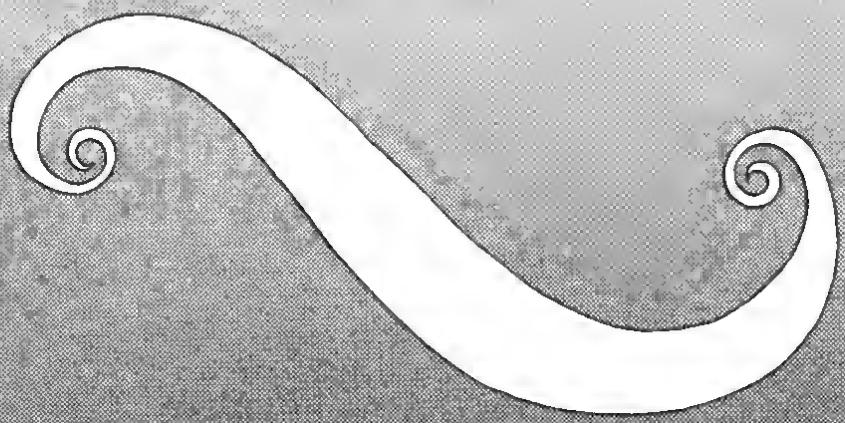
Several hours later...
Zzz...
...47,361, 47, 362 AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, 47,363!
I KNOW YOU'RE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DEATHLY DIFFICULT TRIAL OF ASCENSION...
WHA--?!
...WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE SALUTE OF A THOUSAND HORNS!
TUP
TUP
TUP
OH GREAT...THIS CEREMONY'S GOING TO TAKE ALL DAY!
THE THOUSAND-HORNED HORTOK
YO.
DA-
DA-
D

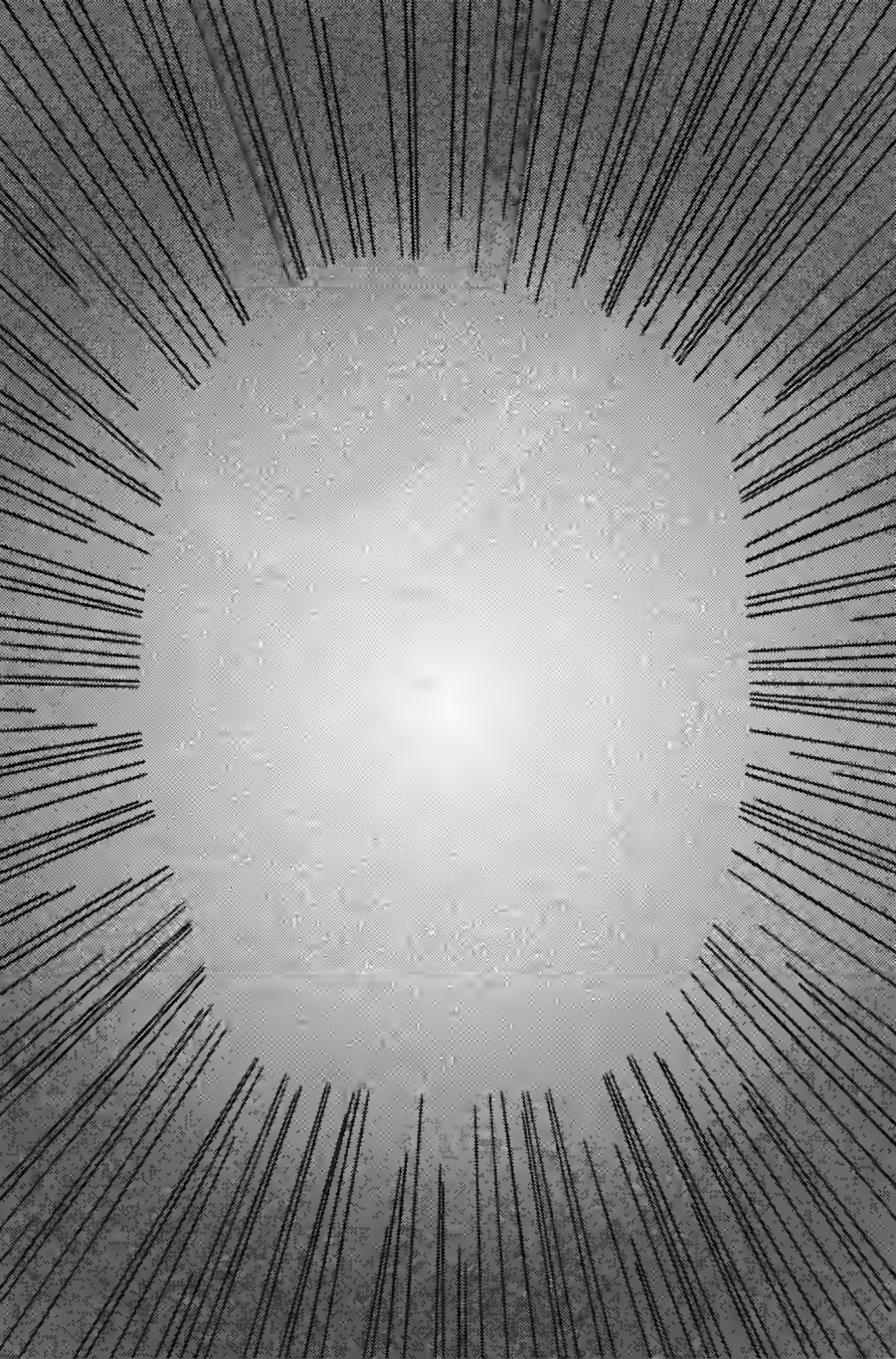
HUH?
STOP HIM!
Nya nya!
COME HERE, YOU!
GASP!
OH NO! HE'S ON THE STAGE! AN ASSASSIN? WAIT, NO--DON'T TELL ME THEY...
It's indecent!
Eyuck!
So big....
Oh, I can't look!
TOBY

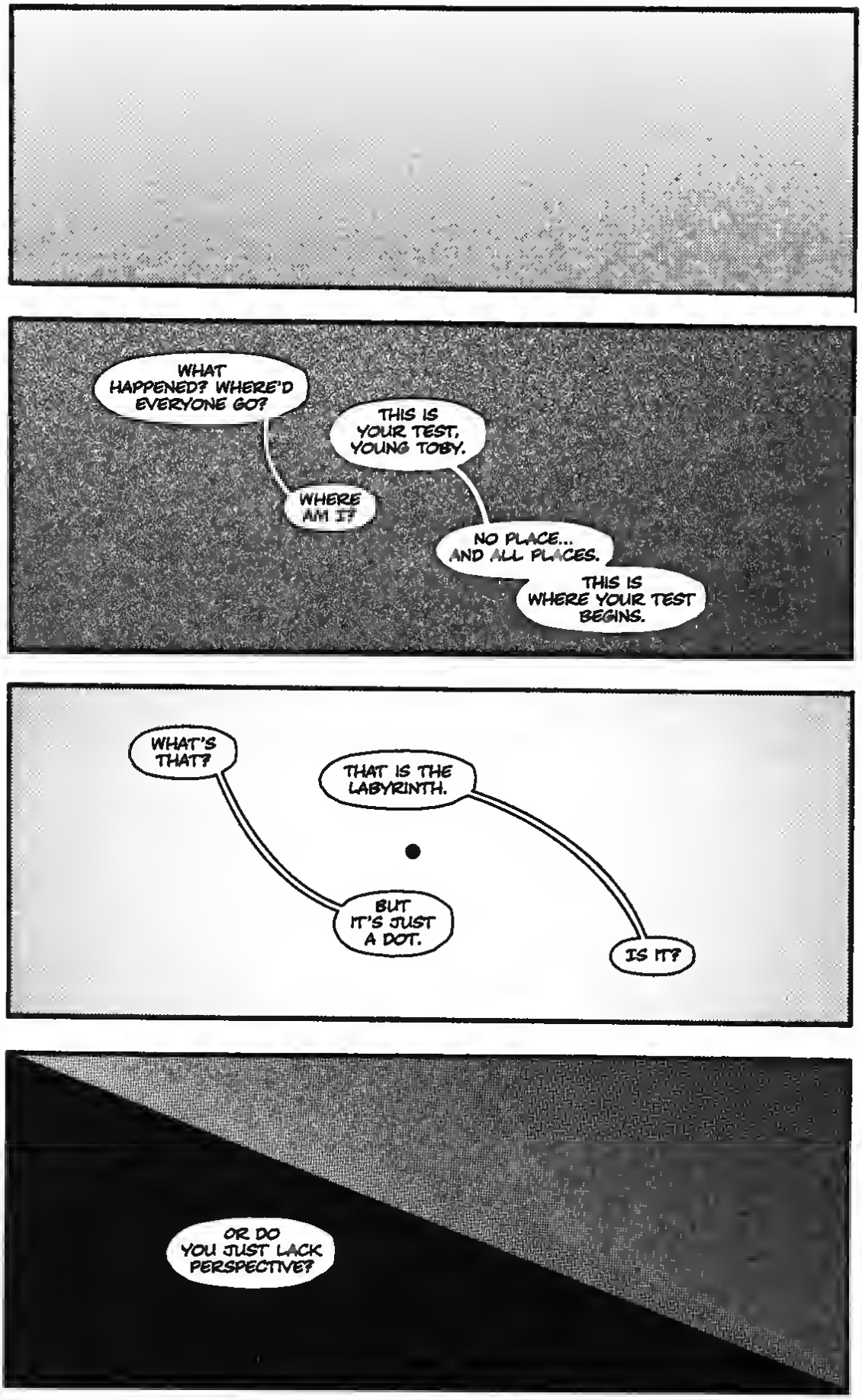
GOBLINS AND GRUNTLED KIN--THE ROYAL JEWELS!
Butta Bang!
YUP. THEY WENT THERE.
Shake
Shake
NOTE TO SELF— FOR MY FIRST ACT AS KING, OUTLAW ALL PUNS, GAGS AND PRATFALLS.
This is getting ridiculous!
ORDER, EVERYONE, ORDER! THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE TRIAL OF ASCENSION!
THIS MOST SACRED OF RITES WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE HOLIEST OF ALL GOBLINS...
SHE...

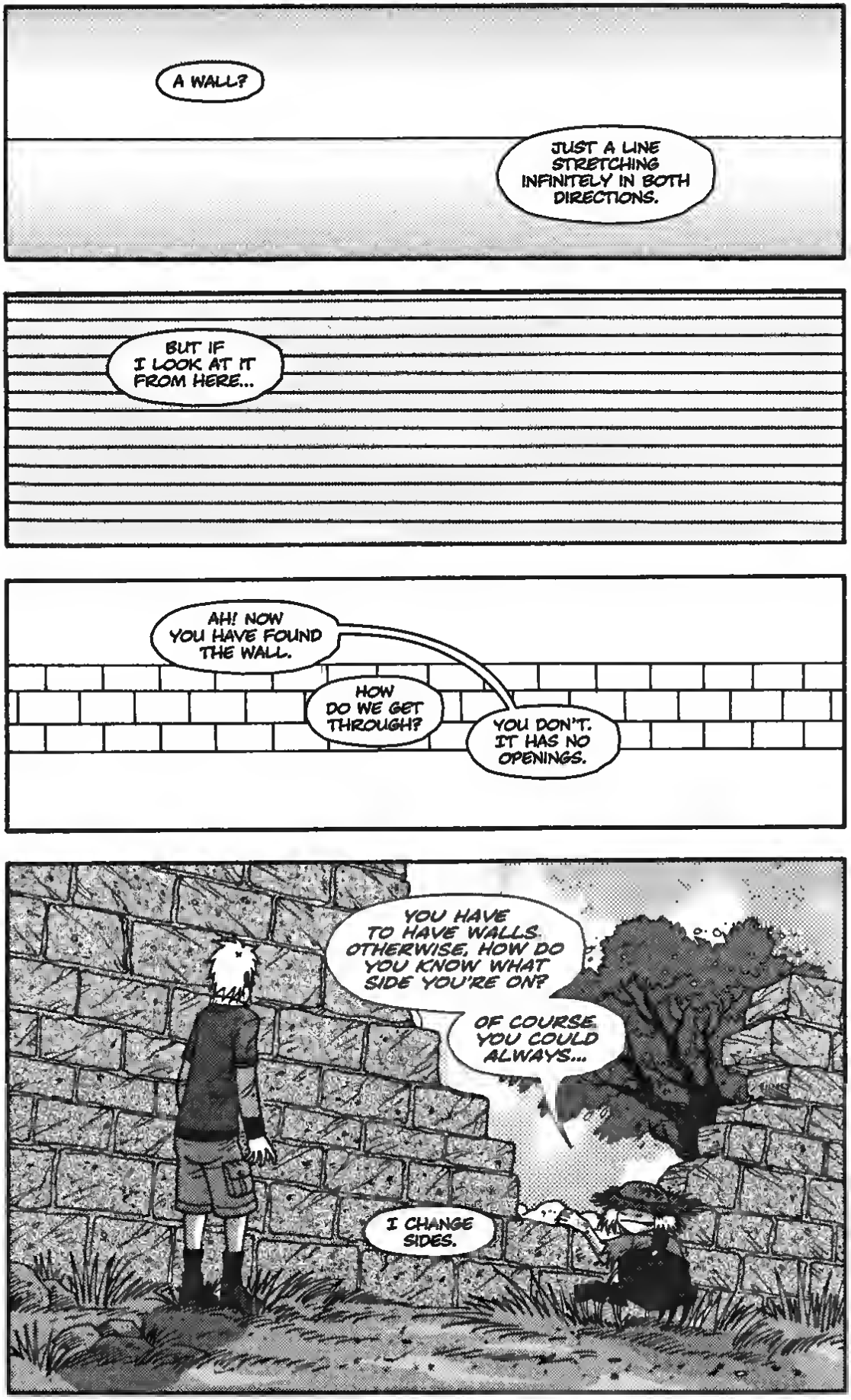
...PONTIFEX MYNOSKYRKA.
TOBY WILLIAMS OF THE REALM OF MEN--YOU WOULD TAKE THE CROWN OF GOBLIN KIND.
TO BE GOBLIN KING IS MORE THAN TO HOLD A TITLE.
IT IS MORE THAN AN OCCUPATION.
TO BE KING IS TO FORFEIT SELF AT THE EXPENSE OF ALL. IT IS TO DEFINE ALL BY THE SELF.
PLEASE RISE.

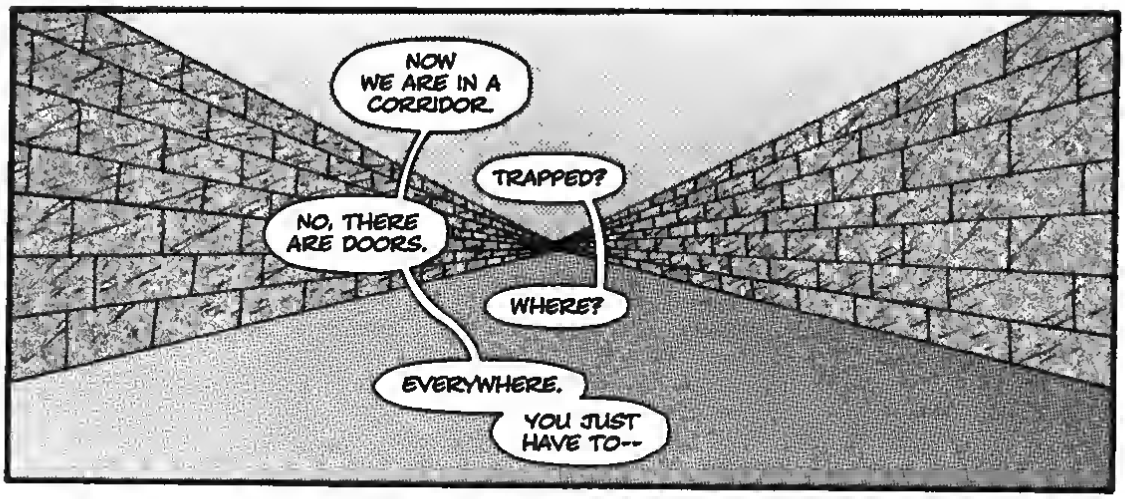
AS HEIR, THE "CROWN" IS YOURS TO TAKE, BUT FIRST YOU MUST PASS THE TEST.
FAILURE MEANS UNDOING, FOR YOURSELF AND THE LABYRINTH. ONCE YOU BEGIN, YOU CANNOT TURN BACK.
WILL YOU ENTER THE TRIAL, TOBY WILLIAMS?
.....
I WILL.
VERY WELL.
DRIP
SLISH





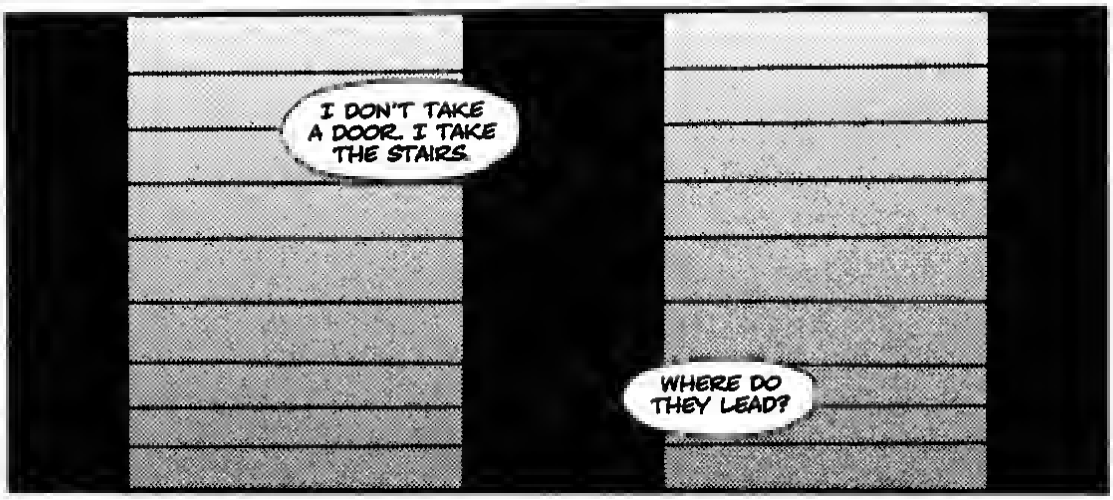

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?
WHERE AM I?
THIS IS YOUR TEST, YOUNG TOBY.
NO PLACE... AND ALL PLACES.
THIS IS WHERE YOUR TEST BEGINS.
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT IS THE LABYRINTH.
BUT IT'S JUST A DOT.
IS IT?
OR DO YOU JUST LACK PERSPECTIVE?

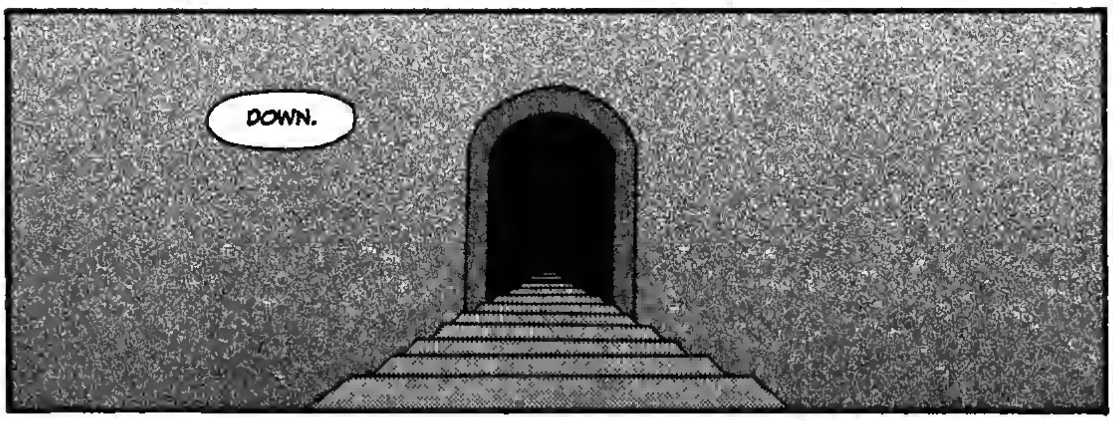

A WALL?
JUST A LINE STRETCHING INFINITELY IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.
BUT IF I LOOK AT IT FROM HERE...
AH! NOW YOU HAVE FOUND THE WALL.
HOW DO WE GET THROUGH?
YOU DON'T. IT HAS NO OPENINGS.
YOU HAVE TO HAVE WALLS. OTHERWISE, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT SIDE YOU'RE ON?
OF COURSE YOU COULD ALWAYS...
I CHANGE SIDES.

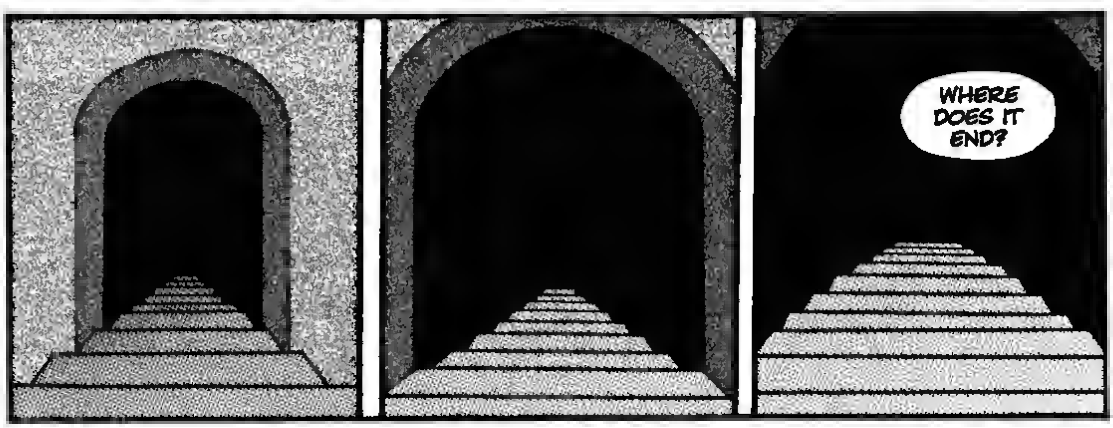


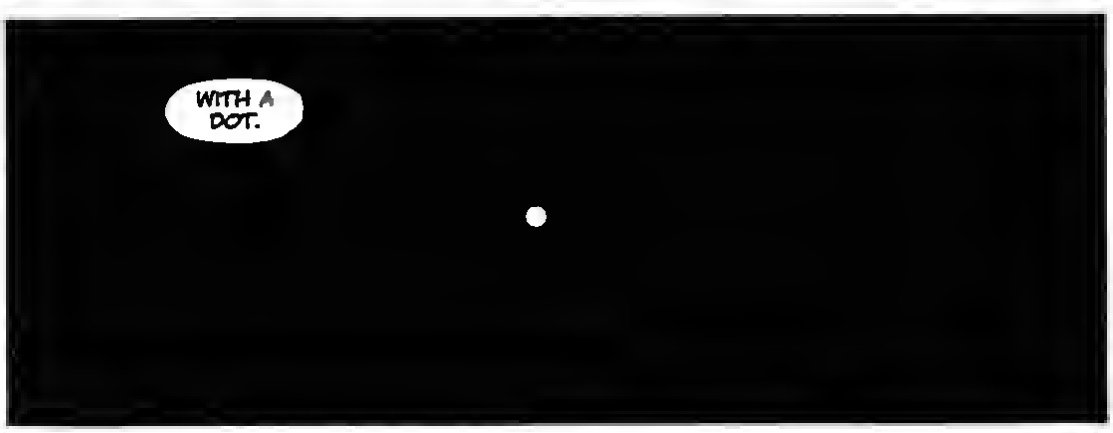
If Toby takes the door on the left, turn to Volume 2, Pg. 60

If Toby takes the door on the right, turn to Volume 2, Pg. 61


I DON'T TAKE A DOOR. I TAKE THE STAIRS.
WHERE DO THEY LEAD?


DOWN.


WHERE DOES IT END?


WITH A DOT.

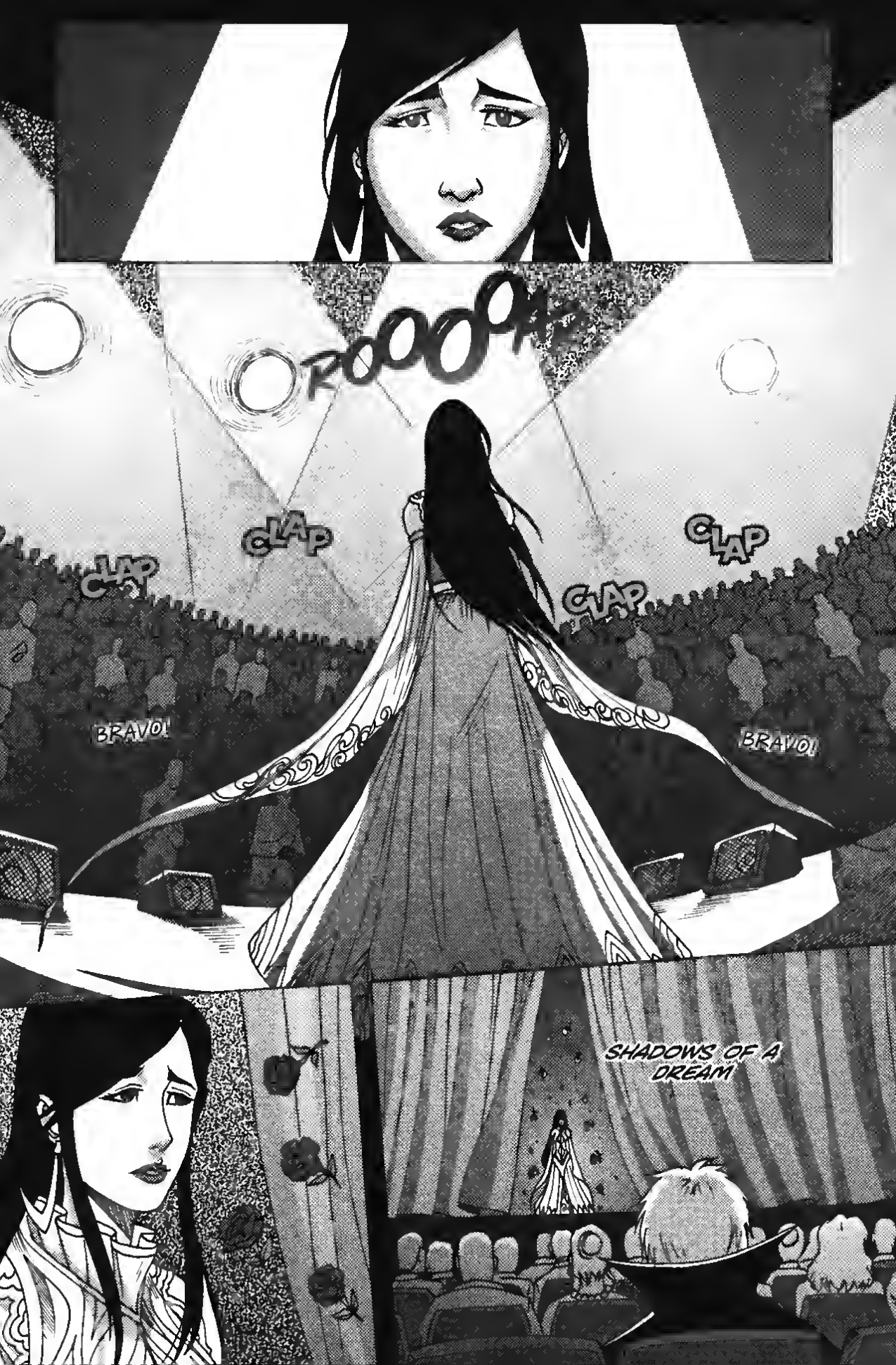
TOBY, WE HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE. YOUR TEST IS COMPLETE.
HAVE YOU FOUND THE PATHMAKER?
YES.
THE PATHMAKER...
...IS ME.

THE TRIAL OF ASCENSION IS COMPLETE!
Huh?
I didn't even see it begin!
Test? What test?
Shh! I'm trying to listen!
THE LABYRINTH HAS SPOKEN.
GOBLINS OF LABYRINTH, I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THE REIGN OF YOUR NEW LEADER--
TOBY, THE GOBLIN KING!!!
IT WILL BE A SHORT REIGN INDEED...

Chapter 4
OBSESSION

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK
NNGGHH...
SWISH

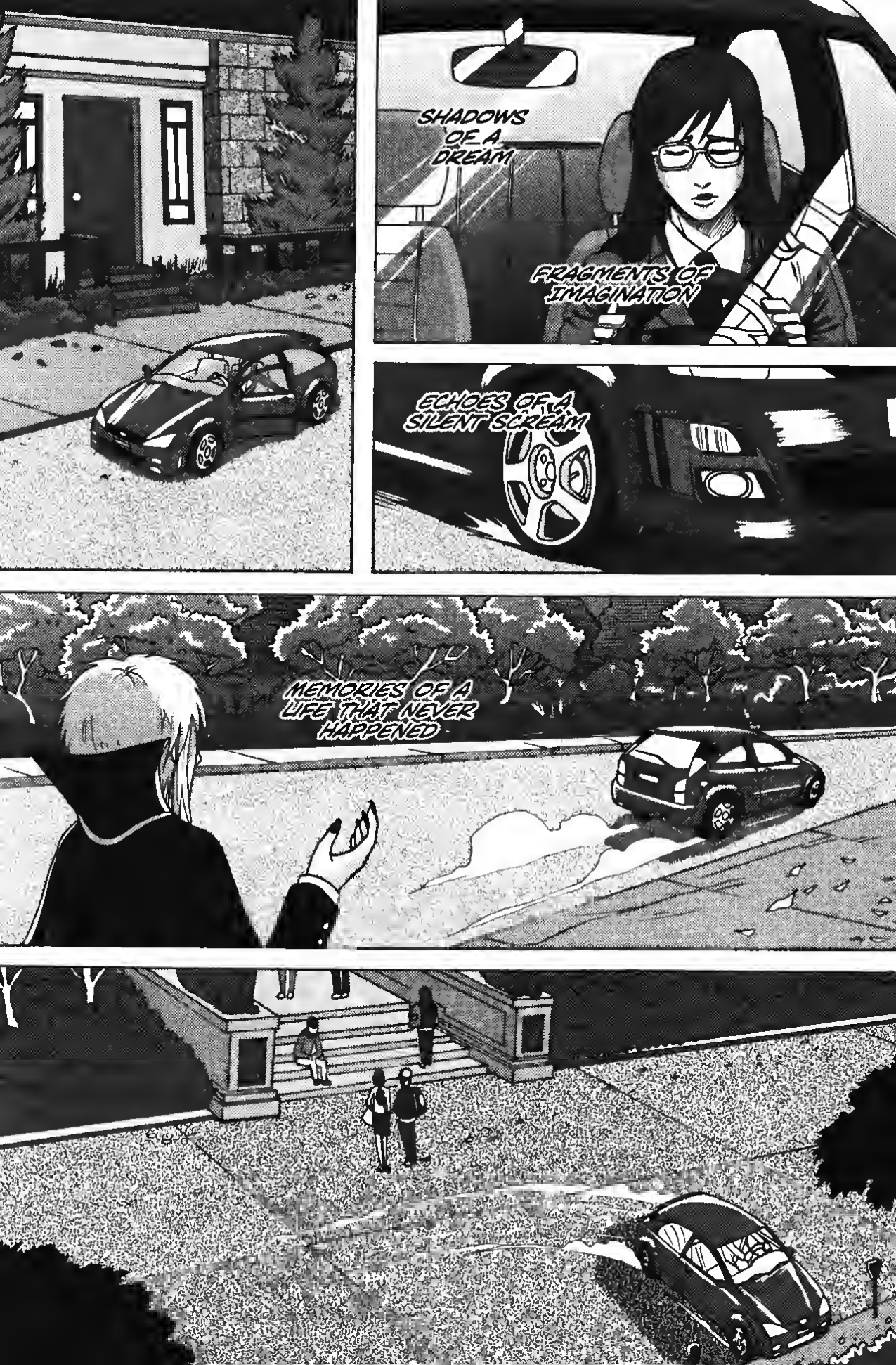
CAN'T WAIT FOR BREAKFAST, CAN YOU, MORGAN?
PRRR PRRR...
ALMOST FINISHED. THEN I'LL FEED YOU.
Sigh...


ROOOAR
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
BRAVO!
BRAVO!
SHADOWS OF A DREAM

FRAGMENTS OF IMAGINATION
ECHOES OF A SILENT SCREAM
MEMORIES OF A LIFE THAT NEVER HAPPENED

I SAW THE TRUTH INSIDE YOUR EYES
FEELINGS THAT WERE LEFT UNSPOKEN
YOU SAID THE WORDS, BUT THEY WERE LIES
HAD I A HEART, IT WOULD BE BROKEN

ALL I EVER WAS
MEANS NOTHING
ALL I EVER WANTED SLIPS AWAY
ALL I EVER HAD DESCENDS TO RUIN
AND YOU ARE MY DESTROYER
Gasp!


SHADOWS OF A DREAM
FRAGMENTS OF IMAGINATION
ECHOES OF A SILENT SCREAM
MEMORIES OF A LIFE THAT NEVER HAPPENED

ENGLISH
THE TEMPEST
JESSICA, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND READING THE FINAL PASSAGE...
"NOW MY CHARMS ARE ALL O'ERTHROWN,
AND WHAT STRENGTH I HAVE'S MINE OWN,
WHICH IS MOST FAINT: NOW, 'TIS TRUE,
I MUST BE HERE CONFINED BY YOU..."
WHAT TOOK A THOUSAND YEARS TO BUILD
FWAP
FWAP
YOU UNDID IN THIRTEEN HOURS
YOU PROVED THAT YOU'RE STRONG-WILLED... IS THIS HOW YOU WOULD USE THAT POWER?

DONG
DONG
DONG
I wish Ms. Williams would stop giving us so much homework
KEEP WISHING.
ENGLISH
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

TURN
YOU TOOK IT ALL AWAY FROM ME
...HELLO?
1004
KNAK
KNAK
KNAK
TMP
TMP
TMP

EXIT
AN ERRANT WISH, AN ACT OF KINDNESS
O FOOLISH GIRL, WHY DON'T YOU SEE?
BECAUSE OF YOU I WALK IN BLINDNESS
EXIT
...?

TIMEPIECE
GRILL
SHADOWS OF A DREAM
FRAGMENTS OF IMAGINATION
ECHOES OF A SILENT SCREAM
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
MEMORIES OF A LIFE THAT NEVER HAPPENED

SARAH...

A LIFE WITHOUT LOVE
LOVE WITHOUT MEANING...
SARAH, SARAH, SARAH...
YOU HAVE TOYED WITH ME FOR THE LAST TIME, SARAH.
I MAY HAVE LOST EVERYTHING. BUT AM NOT FINISHED YET.
I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE.
BUT FIRST THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST DO...

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
SPLISH

CLANG
CLANG
I'M GETTING CLOSE...

Dim
Dim
NO! NOT YET!
MY LAST GLAM EXTINGUISHED...
BLINK
THE AMULET GONE.
TOBY'S ASCENSION IS COMPLETE.
I HAVE TO HURRY.
TUG

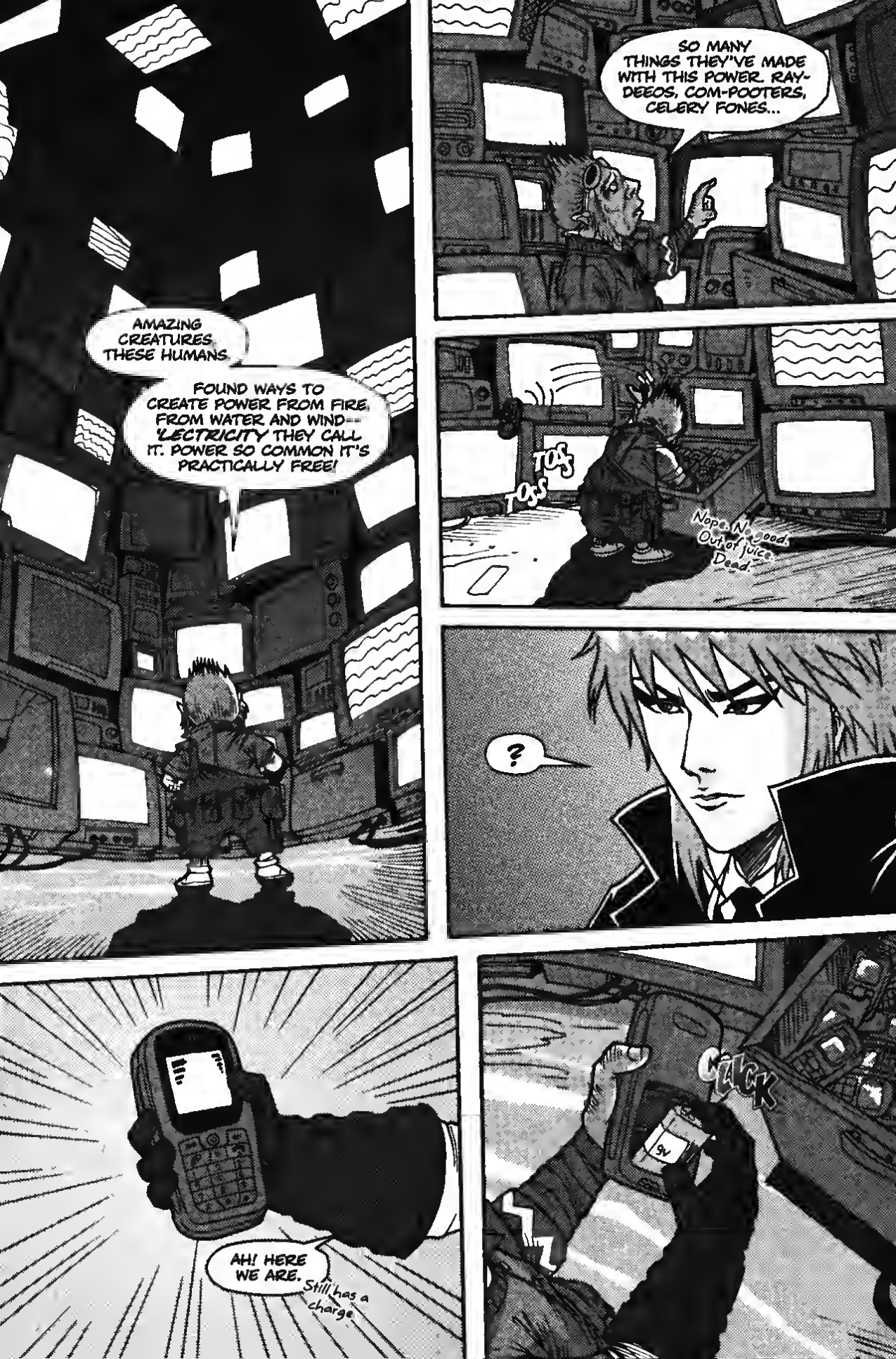
THE GLAM SAID HE WAS NEARBY...
Nope.
BINGO.
?

TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
TMP
TMP
TMP
HUH?!
TMP
TMP
TMP

TMP
TMP
TMP
STATE THE NATURE OF YOUR MEDICAL EMERGENCY.
?
I AM FLUENT IN OVER 5000 FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.
WHERE'S COB?
WHIRRR
EX-TERMINATE! EX-TERMINATE!
Whap
Whap
Whap
Pathetic.

COB THE EXILE...
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME.
J-JARETH?!

WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN. SIT, SIT! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
LEMME JUST GO FETCH IT FOR YOU.
I WOULD HATE TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD BETRAY ME.
YOU HAVEN'T LOST IT, HAVE YOU, COB?
LOST? OH, NO, NO, YOUR TALLNESS.
KEPT IT SAFE FOR YOUR ARRIVAL, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED.
KEPT IT CLOSE.
WHO, ME? HEH HEH...


AMAZING CREATURES, THESE HUMANS.
FOUND WAYS TO CREATE POWER FROM FIRE, FROM WATER AND WIND-- 'LECTRICITY THEY CALL IT. POWER SO COMMON IT'S PRACTICALLY FREE!
SO MANY THINGS THEY'VE MADE WITH THIS POWER. RAY-DEEOS, COM-POOTERS, CELERY FONES...
TOSS
TOSS
Nope. No good. Out of juice. Dead.
?
AH! HERE WE ARE.
Still has a charge.
CLICK
9V

COURSE THIS LECTRICTY ISN'T NEARLY AS POWERFUL AS THE MAGIC YOU'RE USED TO, YOUR CLEANLINESS...
THEY CAN EVEN STORE THEIR POWER IN THESE TINY LITTLE THINGS CALLED "BAT'RIES."
...BUT WHEN PAIRED WITH THIS PIECE OF YOUR HEART...
...IT CAN BE VERY POWERFUL INDEED.
THE SHARD!

WHILE IN THE LABYRINTH, YOUR POWER WANED, THE POWER IN THE SHARD, REMOVED FROM YOUR DOMAIN, REMAINED AS POTENT AS THE DAY YOU CARVED IT OUT.
OF COURSE, THAT WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG. SPLINTER OFF A PIECE OF YOUR HEART AND SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY?
AND OLD COB--COB THE GOB, COB THE EXILE...
...WHAT'S COB GET FROM THE DEAL?
HE GETS GNAWED TO THE CORE AND KICKED TO THE CURB.
NO CONTACT WITH THE REST OF HIS KIND, NO DOORWAY HOME, AND NEVER SO MUCH AS A POSTCARD FROM HIS BUDDY JARETH.
HAD TO MAKE HIS OWN FRIENDS TO KEEP FROM GOING MAD.
YOU KNEW THE TERMS, COB.
WOULD YOU RATHER I HAD FED YOU TO THE BOG? YOU DESERVED NO LESS FOR YOUR BETRAYAL.
NOW, HAND IT OVER.
TRUTH BE TOLD, GOBLIN KING THAT WAS...
...I DON'T MUCH FEEL LIKE GIVING IT UP.
SLASH!

ONCE A TRAITOR, ALWAYS A TRAITOR.
WITH THIS, I CAN BE KING HERE! WHY WOULD I GIVE THAT UP FOR A POWERLESS WORM LIKE YOU?
THIS AIN'T YOUR WORLD, JARETH-- IT'S MINE.
HAS BEEN EVER SINCE YOU EXILED ME FROM THE LABYRINTH!
THIS IS QUITE A KINGDOM YOU'VE MADE FOR YOURSELF, COB.
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOUR SUBJECTS.
HM?

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE...
YOU ARE VERY FOND OF YOUR TOYS, AREN'T YOU?
MANDELBROT!
JARETH, YOU MONSTER! DON'T HURT THE LITTLE FELLA!
TOSS
CATCH.
NO!!
DASH
OH, MANDELBROT. YER SAFE NOW...

SNAP

COB, COB... WHATEVER WILL I DO WITH YOU?
I-I WAS ONLY JOKIN', YER MAJESTY! PLEASE, D-DON'T KILL ME...
KILL YOU? OF COURSE NOT.
AND YET, I CAN'T HAVE MY SUBJECTS THINKING I'VE GONE SOFT.
A "POWERLESS WORM," IS THAT WHAT YOU CALLED ME?

FWASH
EX-TERMINATE!
ENJOY YOUR TOYS, COB.

WHAT'S THIS?
Sweet
Canticle of Dreams
Admission: 1
Enigma Lain Theater

Chapter 5
REIGN FALL
Queen of Cups
King of Swords
The Hanged Man
The Fool

GOBLINS OF LABYRINTH, I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THE REIGN OF YOUR NEW LEADER--
TOBY, THE GOBLIN KING!!!
THMP
BOW
THMP THMP THMP
TOBY
RISE, GOBLIN KING.

SHE'S READY.
OF COURSE.
TAKE ME TO HER.
YOU DIDN'T HURT HER, DID YOU? THE HUMAN?
A STRANGE QUESTION COMING FROM YOU WHO WOULD SEVER HER SOUL. BUT NO. SHE FELT NO PAIN.
YOU HAVE SWORN BY YOUR BLOOD, GOBLIN KING. IN THIRTEEN YEARS, I PROMISE YOU, I WILL COME TO COLLECT.
AND I PROMISE YOU, YOU SHALL NEVER HAVE MY HEART.
IN HERE.

SHE SEEMS RATHER... INNOCENT.
DREAMERS ALWAYS ARE.
NOT HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, ARE YOU?
MARK MY WORDS, WITCH. SHE WILL BEND HER WILL TO MINE.
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME.
WHAT IS HOME?
WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE.
SHE'LL NEVER LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW. NOT REALLY.
OH? AND WHY IS THAT.
BECAUSE, JARETH...
...YOU'RE TOO IN LOVE WITH YOURSELF.

HEH
HE
HEH...
EH?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
GO AHEAD, KEEP YOUR HEART.
WITHOUT POWER, WHAT USE IS IT TO ME ANYWAY?
BUT A DEAL'S A DEAL.
HA HA HA HA HA!
OH, JARETH. VERY GOOD! YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ALL ALONG, DIDN'T YOU, YOU INCORRIGIBLE CAD?

GOBLIN KING OF LABYRINTH...
...FROM THE WATERS OF THE WEST I COME...
...TO CLAIM THE KINGDOM I WAS PROMISED!
...THROUGH TWISTING STONE AND TRIALS OF FIRE...
Hurk!

STAND DOWN, WITCH! I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL YOUR MAGIC IS OR WHAT JARETH PROMISED, THE GOBLINS OF LABYRINTH WILL NEVER SURRENDER THEIR HOME TO YOU!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN USURPIFY OUR KINGDOM WITHOUT A FIGHT...
...THEN YOU GREATLY UNDERESTIMATE THE GOBLIN GRIT!
THE FORCES OF MORAINE WILL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH THE LABYRINTH!
THROUGH? WHY WOULD THE ARMY OF MORAINE COME THROUGH THE LABYRINTH...
OH MY. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE TREMBLING.
BUT THEN, I HAVE AN ARMY OF MY OWN.

...WHEN I CAN SUMMON THEM FROM ABOVE?!
NUNATAK KAME POLYNA...
THE SUNCUP FILLS AND OCEANS SQUALL...
TOBY
...TURN THE CHALICE, LET WATER FALL!
KRAK
PLIP

SASTRUGA OGIVE TARN...
TOBY
BY SERAC'S CRACK AND BERGSHRUND'S CRIES...
Wazza!?
...GIVE FORM TO CHAOS, MY KULHAUPS RISE!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
ZAAA

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MEN? ARE YOU AFRAID OF GETTING WET?
THEY'RE ONLY PUDDLE PEOPLE!
CHAAAARGE!!
SPLOOSH!

DRIP
I SAY, DOES ANYBODY HAVE A BAR OF SOAP?
SHKK
THAT WAS REFRESHING!
WE GAVE THEM WHAT FOR, EH, LADS?
GLURP!
LADS?
OH DEAR...

SHOOSH.
"A PROMISE OF YORE, BORN OF BLOOD WILL OPEN A PATH TO LABYRINTH'S HEART...
...AND USHER FORTH A WONDEROUS FLOOD--A NEW ERA THEN SHALL START."
ITEM
MIZUMI... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

GRAAH
OH NO! I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
KRUNK
KRUNK
KRUNK
This way, this way!

IT WORKED!
GLARE
SHAK
UH, UH. UH, TOBY DEAR. NONE OF THAT.
NOT THAT I HAVE ANY INTENTION IN *HURTING* THE LITTLE SCAMPS.
WHAT'S A QUEEN WITHOUT HER SUBJECTS?

WELL, MAYBE JUST ONE...
KRRK
NOOO!!
VWOSH
SWOOO
PLK

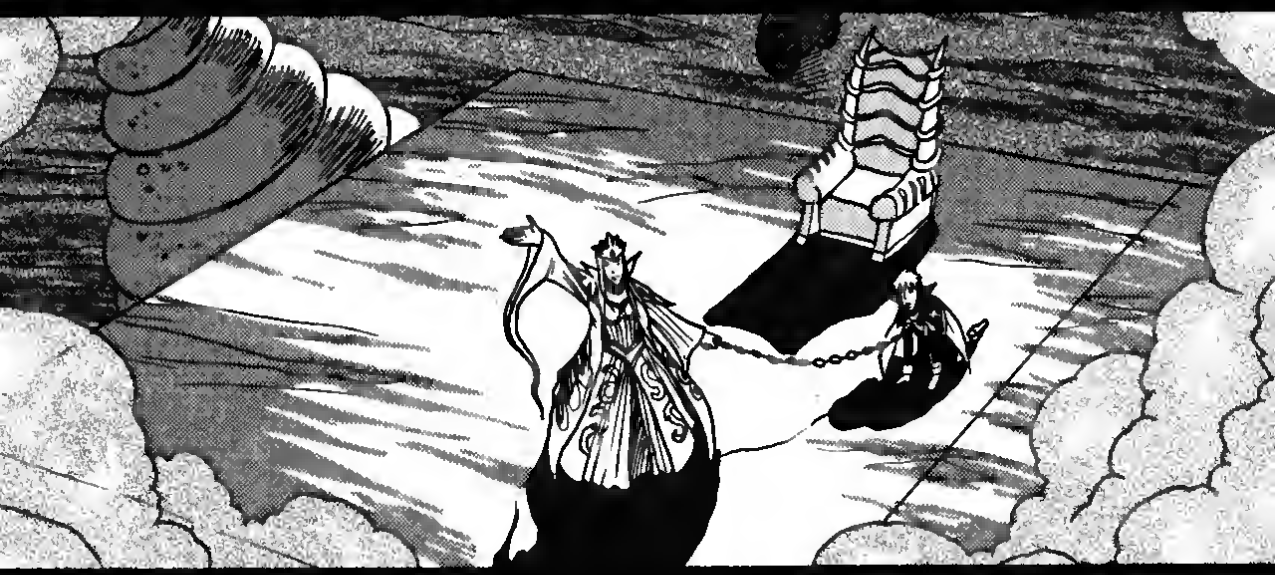
IT'S HOPELESS... THE LABYRINTH IS LOST, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
TOBY...
REMEMBER, TOBY... THE LABYRINTH IS JUST BRICKS. PATHMAKER IS WITHIN YOU.
SPLOTCH AND BOGGART!
THIS WILL NOT STAND, WORLD-CRASHER. THIS WILL NOT STAND!
CANDLEWIC!
SHOW THIS WITCH WHAT WE'RE MADE OF!
SHRK

I...I'M LEAKING...
C-CANDLEWIC... WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?
THWMP
...
YOUR WILL BE DONE, MY QUEEN.

HRRH!
HUH?
BLAM!
Huff huff huff...
SHK

THE BOY HAS FIGHT LEPT IN HIM YET!
LET ME FINISH HIM OFF, YOUR HIGHNESS! I'LL KILL HIM!
PATIENCE, SIR BETRAYER. I STILL NEED THE BOY.
GRRR...
THE ERA OF THE GOBLIN KING IS OVER.
JARETH IS GONE AND HIS HEIR BELONGS TO ME IN BODY AND SOUL.
BOW TO ME, CREATURES OF THE LABYRINTH, OR BE WASHED AWAY. YOU CANNOT STAY THE TIDES OF FATE.

JARETH...
YOU STOLE MY HEART AND LEFT IT TO WITHER.
YOU BUILT ALL THIS TO KEEP ME OUT.
NOW THE SCALES ARE BALANCED.
I ONLY WISH YOU COULD BE HERE TO SEE YOUR KINGDOM FALL.
KOOM!
ALL THAT NOISE...WHAT'S HAPPENING BACK THERE? MAYBE I SHOULD...
NO. I'M NOT GOING BACK. NEVER AGAIN.
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT FORGOTTEN.



Chapter 6
SHADOWS OF A DREAM

UNHAND ME AT ONCE! THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER!
Yap! Yap! GRRRR!
FURRY ONE MAKE HEAD HURT.
Have you no honor?
LOCK HIM UP WITH THE OTHER TROUBLE MAKERS.

WOT ABOUT HIM, MASTER CANDLEWIC?
LEAVE HIM.
LET HIS BODY SERVE AS A REMINDER OF WHAT HAPPENS TO GOBLINS WHO WOULD LICK THE BOOTS OF HUMAN SCUM.
OH, BUT I LIKES TO LICK BOOTS!
ME TOO! SPECIALLY WHEN THEY'VE STILL GOT SOCKS IN THEM.
I MEANT IT META-PHORICALLY!
THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'RE HIGH IN FIBER!
AND TOE JAM!
STARE...
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN SPENDIN' TOO MUCH TIME IN THE FANCY PANTS.
Whisper Whisper
nod nod

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
H...ELP... ME...
AHH...HHH...
"YOU DISAPPOINT ME, SKUB...YOU FAILED US ALL."
GNCH
WAKEY, WAKEY, MR. SPITTLEDRUM
S-SKUB...? BUT THEY'LL...
LET'S GET YOU SOME SOUP, MR. MAYOR.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS WAR OF WILLS, TOBY. I TRULY AM.
SO MUCH PRESSURE FOR ONE SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT.
JUST LIKE HER...
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO.
HAD YOU FAILED YOUR TRIAL, THE LABYRINTH WOULD HAVE NO KING--NO SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO REPLACE THE VACUUM LEFT BY THE COWARD JARETH. ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
STILL, A PROMISE IS A PROMISE. YOU HAVE ONLY JARETH AND HIS TRICKS TO BLAME FOR YOUR FATE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE LABYRINTH?
DO WITH IT? I DON'T CARE ABOUT THESE BRICK WALLS-- IT'S WHAT IT HOLDS THAT I WANT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE GOBLINS WHO LIVE HERE!
THE SOURCE OF THE LABYRINTH'S POWER...
THE THING THAT WAS TAKEN FROM ME A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

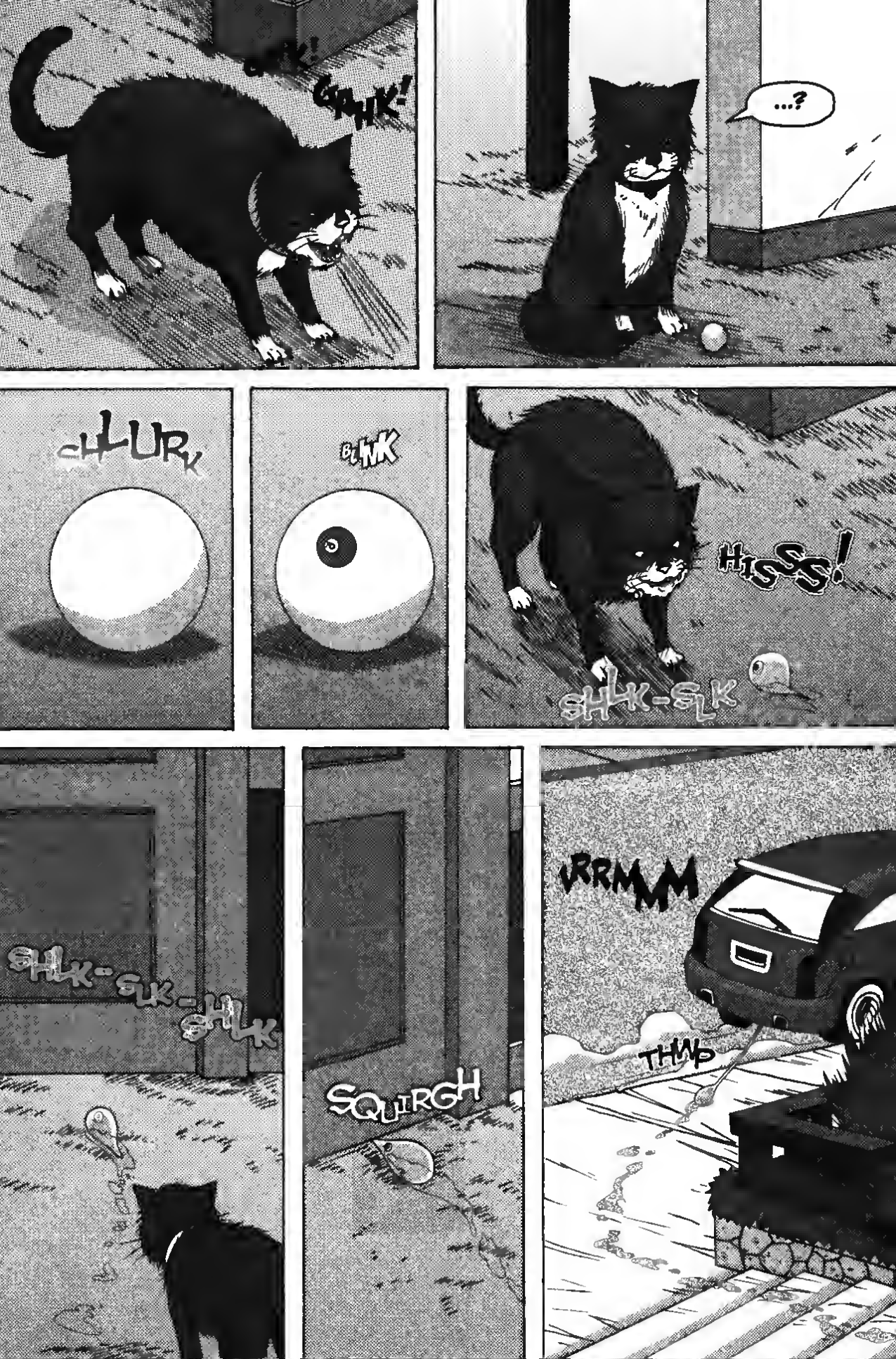
JARETH'S HEART.
I WILL BREAK IT, JUST AS HE BROKE MINE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME.
WHERE IS THE PATHMAKER?
I...I CAN'T...
YOU PASSED THE TRIAL--YOU MUST KNOW WHERE IT IS!
TELL ME WHERE IT IS SO I CAN END ITS CRUEL EXISTENCE ONCE AND FOR ALL!

I ORDER YOU TO BRING ME THE PATHMAKER! BY RIGHTS, YOU MUST OBEY!
HUFF HUFF HUFF
"THE PATHMAKER IS YOU."
SHE DOESN'T KNOW!
IT'S ALREADY RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU RESIST, TOY KING, BUT YOUR WILL CANNOT OPPOSE MINE FOR LONG.
THE BATTLE MUST HAVE TAKEN MORE OUT OF ME THAN I REALIZED.
A FEW HOURS REST. YES, THAT'S IT...
GENERAL CANDLEWIC!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY?
TAKE THE BOY SOMEPLACE WHERE HE WON'T CAUSE ANY MISCHIEF.

I KNOW JUST THE PLACE.
AND REMEMBER, TOBY--AS LONG AS YOU WEAR THAT COLLAR, YOU ARE BOUND TO OBEY MY EVERY WORD.
AND ONLY MY HAND CAN REMOVE IT.
NNGH!
WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
SHIFF
FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF... YOUR MAJESTY.
AAAAGH!

OH, BROTHER.
HONESTLY, TIM, YOU'RE BACKING OUT NOW? IT STARTS IN AN HOUR!
CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?
I HAPPEN TO LIKE THEATER.
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S PRETENTIOUS? YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKING THINGS FOR GRANTED!
MAYBE YOU'RE TAKING THAT FOR GRANTED, TOO.
I'M GOING TO THE PLAY, TIM. ALONE.
KLNK!
SIGH...

CANTICLE OF DREAMS, HUH?
UNUSUAL NAME FOR A PLAY.
"HELLO, SARAH."
BUT NOT HALF SO UNUSUAL AS THE ARTIST. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET HIS FACE OUT OF MY MIND!
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO BE MY THEATER DATE, MORGAN?
You old Rumpus Cat.
MEOWR
OKAY, THEN. YOU STAY AND PROTECT THE CASTLE WHILE I'M AWAY.
MEOWR...
MEOW-HRK?!

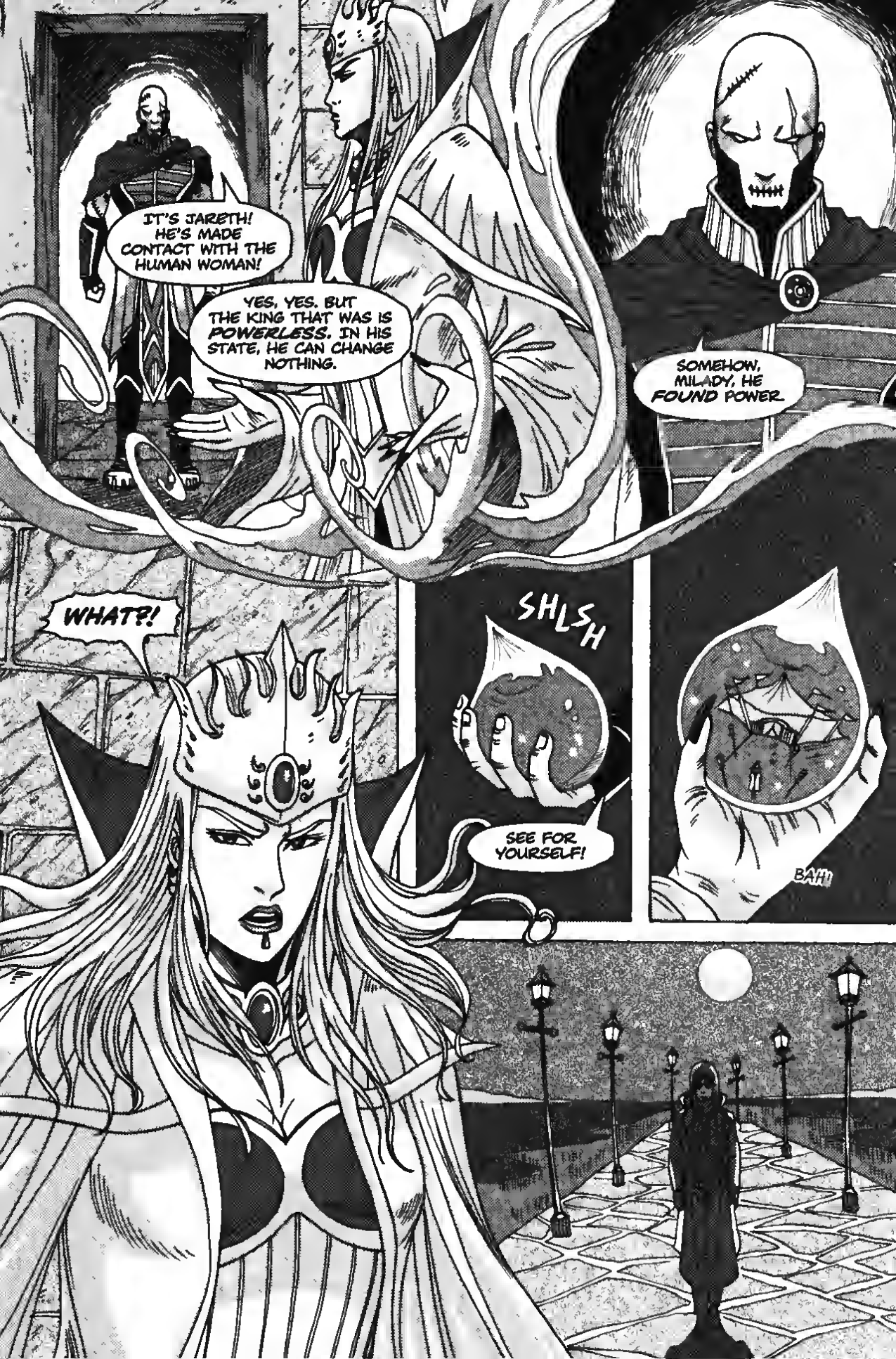

GRRK!
...?
CHURK
BY MK
HISSS!
SHK-SK
SHK-SK-SHK
SQUIRGH
VRRMMM
THWP

VROOM
THIS IS THE ADDRESS, BUT THIS CAN'T BE THE RIGHT...
Huh?
ENIGMA LAIN THEATER
I GUESS THIS IS THE PLACE...
ENIGMA LAIN THEATER
Well, come on, Ted!
GHURK

MOULIN, MOULIN...
...WHATEVER SHALL I DO WITH YOU?
YOUR SISTER'S SLOPPINESS I CAN UNDERSTAND, BUT THIS... THIS OPEN BETRAYAL...
IT PAINS A MOTHER'S HEART TO SEE HER CHILD FALL SO FAR FROM THE TREE.
DON'T LIE TO ME, MOTHER. I KNOW EVERYTHING--WHAT I AM TO YOU.
YOU CAN'T HURT ME--YOU CAN ONLY DESTROY ME.

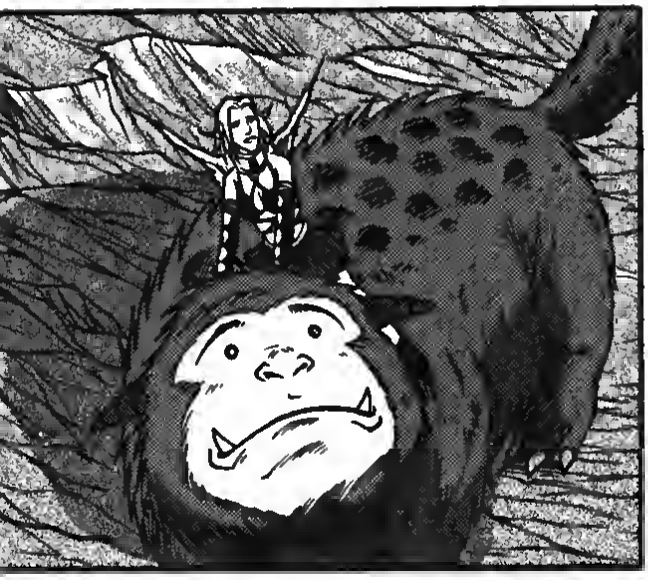
JUST LIKE YOU DID MY SISTER.
YOU ALWAYS WERE THE RESOURCEFUL ONE. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D FIND OUT THE TRUTH.
WHY WOULD YOU DO IT?
WHY WOULD YOU CREATE US KNOWING THAT WE WERE DESTINED TO DIE WITH YOU OR WITHIN YOU?
BECAUSE I COULD NOT TAKE THE PAIN OF LIVING WITH HEARTBREAK ANY LONGER.
I TOOK AWAY THE FEELINGS THAT BOUND ME TO HIM AND CREATED THE TWO OF YOU.

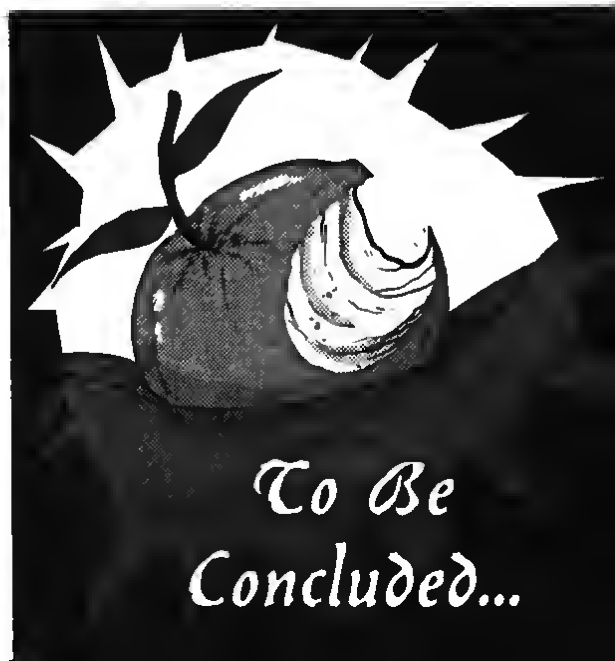
A PITY YOU DIDN'T COME TO ME WITH YOUR TROUBLES INSTEAD OF HIM.
WE COULD HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY.
YOU SAID THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY!
OF COURSE THERE IS. I JUST DIDN'T WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
NOW THAT THE LINK OF TRUST IS SEVERED, YOU ARE TOO MUCH OF A LIABILITY.
YOU KNOW I SPEAK TRUE WHEN I SAY THIS WILL HURT ME AS MUCH AS IT HURTS YOU.
LADY MIZUMI!


IT'S JARETH! HE'S MADE CONTACT WITH THE HUMAN WOMAN!
YES, YES. BUT THE KING THAT WAS IS POWERLESS. IN HIS STATE, HE CAN CHANGE NOTHING.
SOMEHOW, MILADY, HE FOUND POWER.
WHAT?!
SHLSH
SEE FOR YOURSELF!
BAH!

THIS CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN! GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD AND STOP THEM!
NATURALLY MY FIRST INSTINCT, EXCELLENCY, BUT TRY AS I MIGHT, I CANNOT LEAVE THE LABYRINTH.
THE PATHMAKER AGAIN!
KRST!
PERHAPS...
...THERE IS ANOTHER WAY...
LUCKY GIRL. YOU'VE WON A REPRIEVE. WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND FINISH THAT CHAPTER.
MUMMY'S GOT WORK TO DO.

KILL THE ABLATION...
...AND THE ORIGINAL DIES WITH IT.




To Be
Concluded...

In the next volume of

Jim Henson's RETURN TO LABYRINTH

It seems Moulin has won a temporary reprieve from her Mother's terrible wrath, but for how long?

Sweet, scared little Skub has at last found the strength to be brave, but what price will he pay for his kindness?

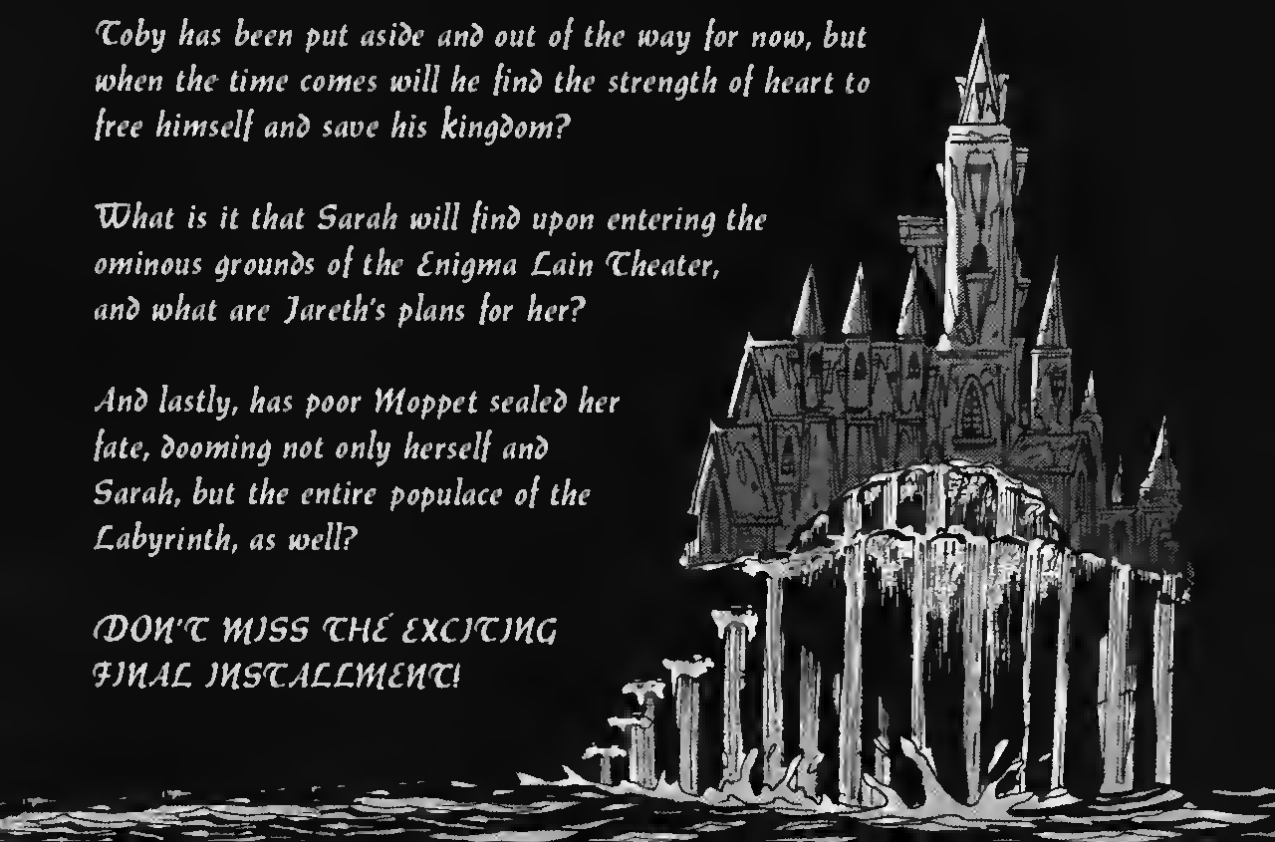
They are safe for the moment, but what can Hana and Stank possibly do that will make a difference against the powerful Mizumi?

Toby has been put aside and out of the way for now, but when the time comes will he find the strength of heart to free himself and save his kingdom?

What is it that Sarah will find upon entering the ominous grounds of the Enigma Lain Theater, and what are Jareth's plans for her?

And lastly, has poor Moppet sealed her fate, dooming not only herself and Sarah, but the entire populace of the Labyrinth, as well?

DON'T MISS THE EXCITING FINAL INSTALLMENT!



It's hard to believe, but it has been four years since *Return to Labyrinth* first appeared out of the aether; an unexpected sequel to a cult classic that for years flew outside the radar. Much has changed in the story since I first proposed the project to Tokyopop. On the first draft, *Return to Labyrinth* read like a fanboy's imitation of a Monty Python sketch, my gushing admiration for the film's screenwriter Terry Jones all too apparent. Another dead-end draft borrowed heavily from the shojo manga series I was editing at the time, with Jareth playing the part of a sexy schoolteacher in a romantic comedy (in which Hana the wingless fairy would play the part of Jareth's reluctant cupid, no less). A lot has changed since then (hopefully for the better!), but through all the drafts, one goal has remained the same -- to expand on a world born of imagination, where nothing is what it seems.

I know it's been a long wait so far, and as this penultimate volume comes to a close, I'm afraid I must ask you to wait yet again. Volume 4 will see Toby's story to a close, but there are still a few dramatic knots to untie before it goes to press. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more about *Return to Labyrinth*, or want to share your hopes and gripes with others, I encourage you to check out www.gobblin.net. For those who have yet to visit, a healthy chunk of concept art, deleted scenes and other behind the scenes ephemera await. For regular readers, I'll try not to keep you updated without spoiling anything!

Thanks, Chris, for brining *Return to Labyrinth* to life with ever-greater detail. Thank you to Rob for getting the series off on the right foot, Tim for taking it to the next level and Bryce for bringing her home. Thank you to Jess for keeping me honest and being my pillar of support. Carol, Sarah and one Juggler Mouse – I am so grateful for your honest feedback along the way. A big thanks to all the readers of gobblin.net – you guys (well, girls mostly) have helped me get to the heart of *Labyrinth's* appeal, and for that I'm ever in your debt. And of course, thank you to the folks at Henson who keep Jim's dream alive.

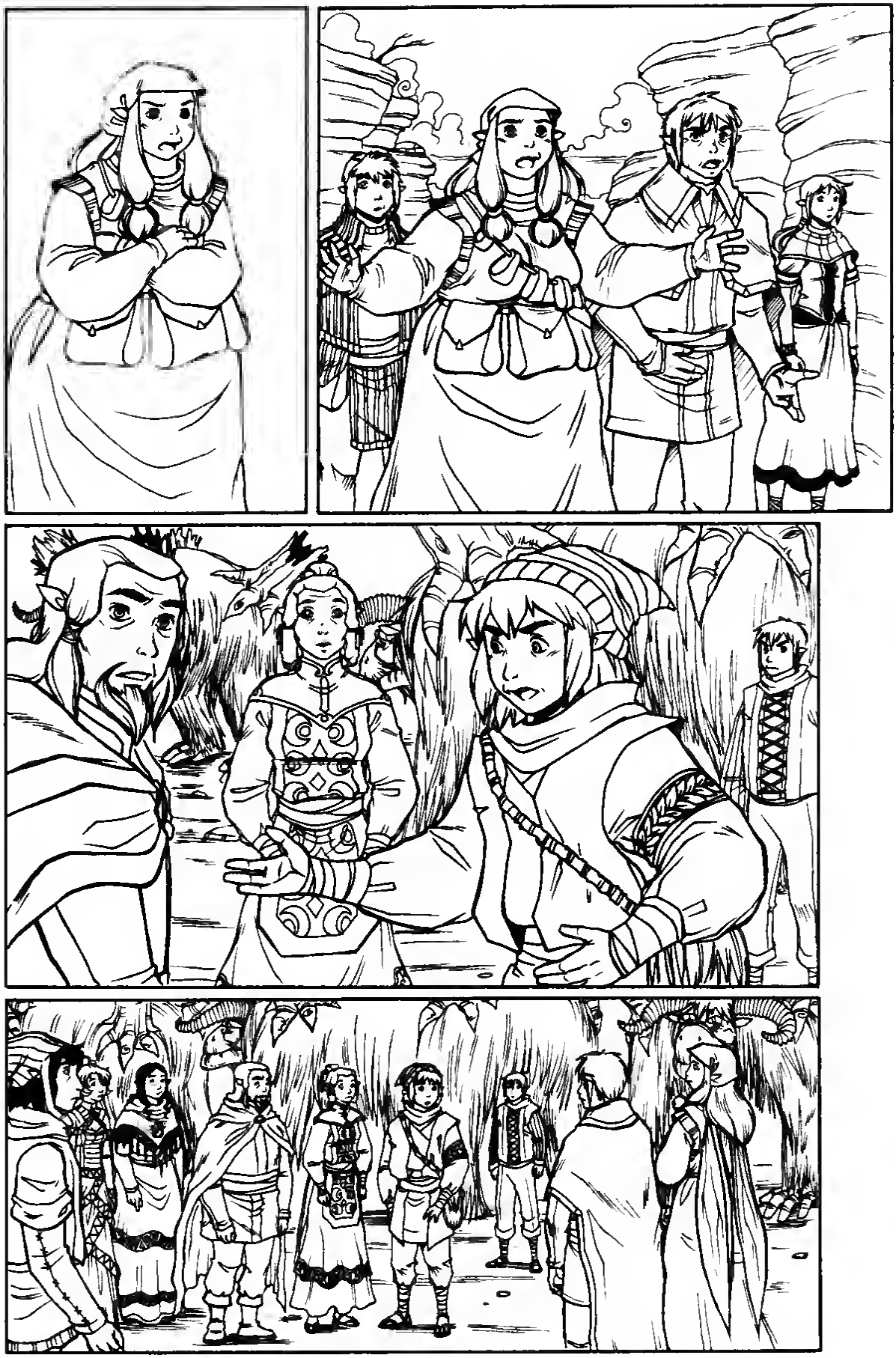
See you in Volume 4!

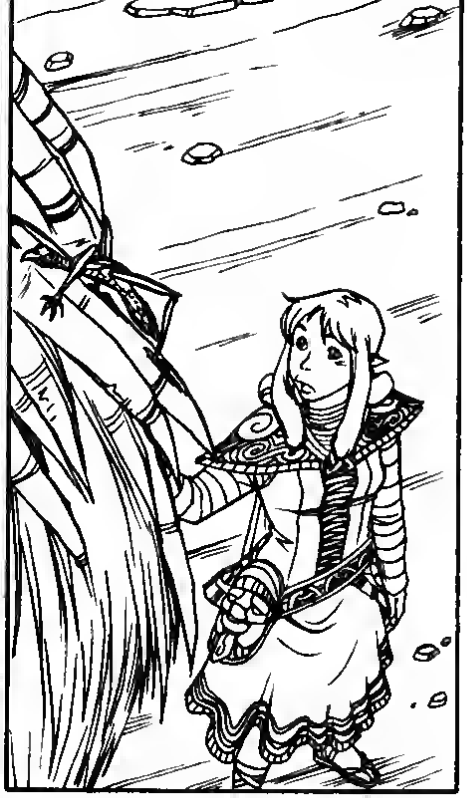
Jake T. Forbes

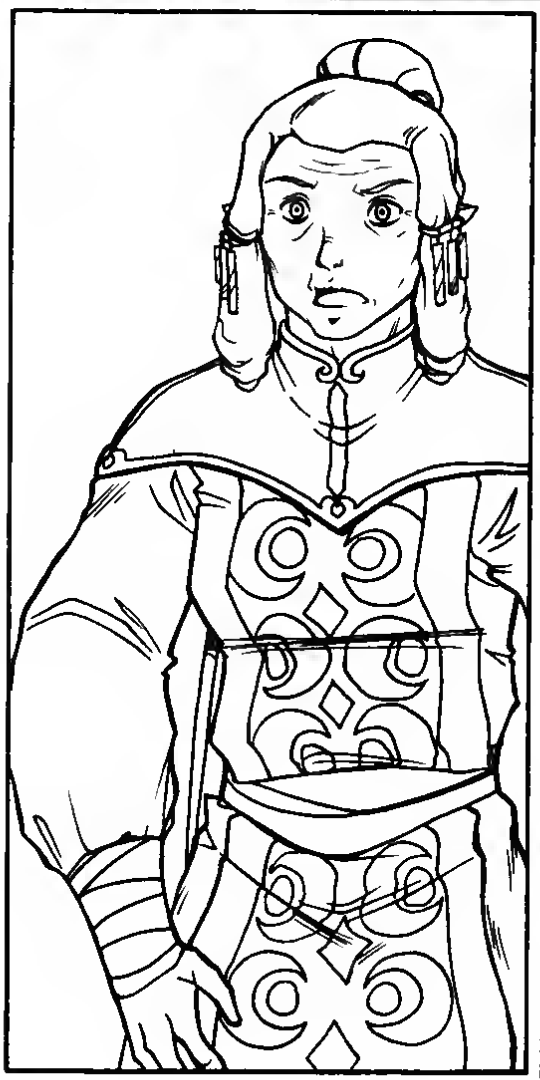
And now, for you fans of all things Henson, we've got a special treat! TOKYOPOP is proud to present a very special sneak peek at some of the wonderful work in progress from *Legends of The Dark Crystal*, volume 2!

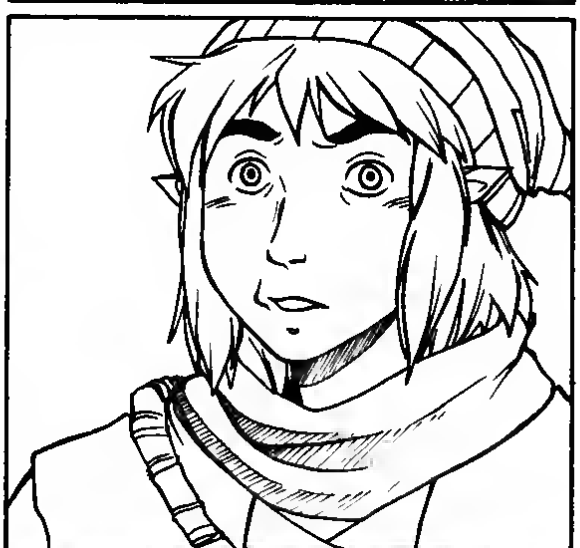
Artwork by the talented Heidi Arnhold.

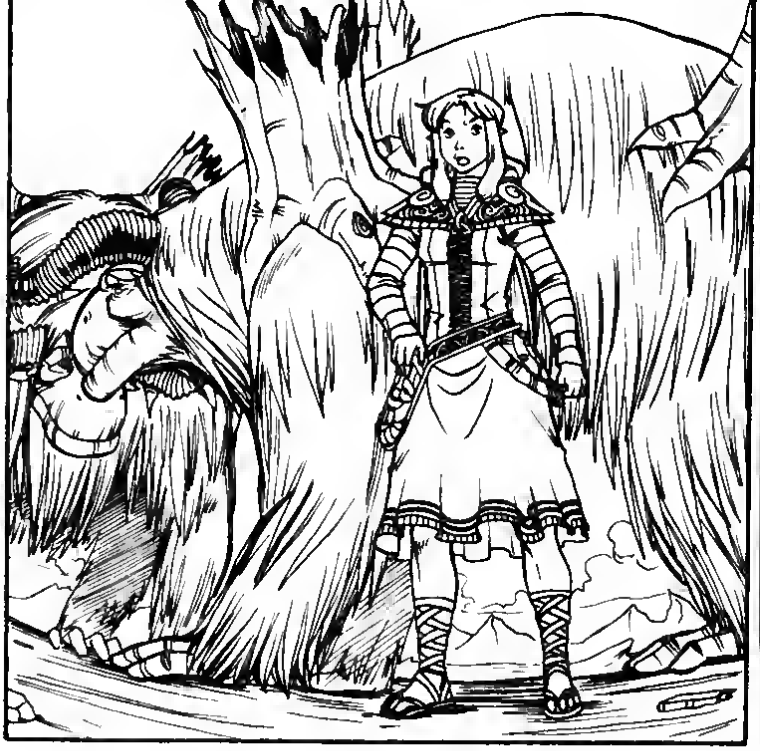
Enjoy!











Coming soon from TOKYOPOP!

WRITER

JAKE T. FORBES

Jake T. Forbes is one of the leading scholars of Goblinology. After a visitation by the Goblin King himself,* Forbes abandoned a life of editing manga hits like *Fruits Basket* and *Fullmetal Alchemist* and dedicated his days to translating the original notebooks of sir Froud and Jones, unraveling the riddles of the Thin White Duke and memorizing every frame in master Henson's cinematic account of the "Great Goblin Meddling of '86." While Forbes has not been to the Labyrinth himself, nor has he spoken with any of the participants, he insists that every word in *Return to Labyrinth* is true.

* *Visitation unconfirmed by the GWI (Goblin Watchers International)*

ILLUSTRATOR

CHRIS LIE

Since obtaining his Masters Degree in Sequential Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2005, Chris Lie has been producing artwork for *G.I. Joe*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Voltron*, *Bionic Commando*, and his original co-created series; *Drafted*. He is now managing Caravan Studio, an illustration and concept art studio, working on graphic novels, toy packaging, and concept design for video games. Recently, his artwork was featured as the inside cover of *Street Fighter IV* X360 US Regular Edition.